



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHAIN DRUG STORES

On Increased Prescribing of Hydroxychloroquine/Chloroquine

March 20, 2020

(Updated March 23, 2020, with a new final sentence in third paragraph)

On the front lines, pharmacies and pharmacists remain committed to serving as an important part of the solution to the current public health emergency, and to helping all Americans maintain their health and wellness. Of course, the dynamics related to this situation are evolving on a daily basis, and given the location of pharmacies in communities throughout the nation we are identifying trends and adapting swiftly.

We have heard that pharmacies are seeing an increase in prescriptions being written for Hydroxychloroquine/Chloroquine. In addition, some state boards of pharmacy also have been made aware of this situation.

As a result, some state boards of pharmacy have contacted pharmacies to encourage pharmacists to exercise professional judgment in dispensing this drug to those who have a medically appropriate reason to have it, rather than simply to have it on hand “just in case.” The boards’ outreach focuses on ensuring that Hydroxychloroquine/Chloroquine remains available to those relying on it already for Food and Drug Administration-approved indications, such as lupus. The boards also note that availability of the drug may be most beneficial for high-risk individuals diagnosed with COVID-19. Some state boards of pharmacy and governors have taken action to issue temporary rules to restrict dispensing of this drug.

We are confident that state medical societies and the vast majority of prescribers will adhere to professional standards and to the best interest of public health and the health of individual patients. Our nation, our communities, our patients, and our pharmacists who are doing so much on the front lines of healthcare deserve that.

We stand with all healthcare providers and with everyone in our communities to preserve public health and wellness at this time and always.