



A Public Entity

Inland Empire Health Plan

# PHARMACY TIMES

BY IEHP PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

March 25, 2020

## URGENT NOTICE: Hydroxychloroquine Formulary Change

Dear IEHP Provider,

As of March 24, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has indicated there are no US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved drugs specifically for the treatment of patients with COVID-19. Hydroxychloroquine has been under investigation in clinical trials for pre-exposure or post-exposure prophylaxis of SARS-CoV-2 infection, and treatment of patients with mild, moderate, and severe COVID-19<sup>1</sup> leading to overutilization of this medication. To help prevent and decrease the inappropriate use of hydroxychloroquine, IEHP has decided to implement a Prescription Drug Prior Authorization (RxPA) process for any requests submitted for hydroxychloroquine due to COVID-19.

- **Effective March 23, 2020, any prescriptions for hydroxychloroquine will now require a prior authorization.**
- **Members who are currently taking hydroxychloroquine for Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) are exempt from the RxPA process and will be able to continue filling their medication.**

If your patient should need hydroxychloroquine for diagnosis of COVID-19, prescriber must submit a RxPA with the following medical justification:

- Documented + COVID-19 test results
- Member must 18 years or older
- Currently hospitalized with confirmed COVID-19 or suspected with severe clinical symptoms OR
- Has a high risk condition such as:
  - Age 65 years and older
  - Chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
  - Serious heart condition
  - Immunocompromised including cancer treatment
  - Severe obesity (BMI >40)

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<sup>1</sup>*Therapeutic Options for Patients with COVID-19* . 24 March 2020. <<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/therapeutic-options.html>>.



- Underlying health conditions not well controlled such as diabetes, renal failure or liver disease
- Physician statement of awareness of adverse side effects and clinical opinion that benefits outweigh risk of use

Exclusion Criteria:

- Pregnant Women (Category D)
- Contraindication or allergic to 4-aminoquinoline compounds (i.e. hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine)

IEHP understands that this transition can be difficult for our Providers and Members. We ask you to evaluate the risk and patient specific factors and discuss appropriate treatment options.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us at (909) 890-2049 between 8:00 AM -5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
IEHP Pharmaceutical Services