



**Illinois Pharmacists Association**

204 West Cook Street

Springfield, Illinois 62704

(217) 522-7300 • [www.ipha.org](http://www.ipha.org) • @ILPharmacists

---

## **Medication Dispensing Recommendations in relation to COVID-19**

The Illinois Pharmacists Association (IPhA) is disturbed by the current actions of prescribers that are inappropriately prescribing medications such as: Plaquenil (hydroxychloroquine), Chloroquine, and Zithromax (Azithromycin) without valid patient-provider relationship or reasonable medical rationale.

As IPhA stated in our *Pharmacy Recommendations during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic* released on March 20, 2020:

### **Proper Medication Dispensing**

You may have patients seeking medications that may or may not be a proper treatment option for COVID-19. **Please use your professional and clinical judgement to ensure ethical dispensing of medications for the treatment of COVID-19 that is outside established CDC and/or FDA approved guidance.**

IPhA strongly recommends the following (based on emergency action from the Idaho and Ohio Boards of Pharmacy) for new prescriptions that are not considered a component of established therapy prior to the COVID-19 pandemic or new diagnosis for health conditions non-related to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- No prescription for chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine may be dispensed except when all the following apply:
  - The prescription bears a written diagnosis code from the prescriber consistent with the evidence for its use; and
  - If written for a COVID-19 diagnosis, the diagnosis has been confirmed by a positive test result, which is documented on the prescription and both of the following apply:
    - The prescription is limited to no more than a fourteen-day supply; and
    - No refills may be permitted unless a new prescription is furnished.
- Prescriptions for either presumptive positive patients or prophylactic use of chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine related to COVID-19 should be examined for proper patient-provider relationship and medical necessity.

IPhA reminds pharmacists that the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation has an online compliant form to file complaints against any registered professionals (including physicians, advanced practice nurse practitioners, physician assistants, & pharmacists).

Click here to file an online complaint: <https://www.idfpr.com/Admin/DPR/Complaint.asp>

**For the most up-to-date information:**

Please visit the CDC website [here](#)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

IPhA COVID-19 Resource Center or click [here](#)

<https://www.ipha.org/covid-19>

State of Illinois Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response or click [here](#)

<https://coronavirus.illinois.gov>

Illinois Department of Public Health:

Call the COVID-19 Hotline at 1-800-889-3931,

Email DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV, or click [here](#)

<https://bit.ly/3csPUSK>

Chicago Department of Public Health

Call 312-746-4835

Email coronavirus@chicago.gov, or click [here](#)

<https://bit.ly/2Qclk6h>

Cook County Department of Public Health:

Call 708-633-4000 or click [here](#)

<https://bit.ly/2PJytDG>