

Guidance regarding COVID-19 related drug prescribing

The Bahamas Pharmacy Council as well as local pharmacies have recently received increased reports of prescriptions being issued for hydroxychloroquine, chloroquine, and azithromycin for prophylactic purposes in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. These medications have not yet been proven to be beneficial for preventing or treating COVID-19 and concerns have been raised that this activity may lead to stockpiling of medication, inappropriate use and potential drug shortages for patients with a legitimate need.

Due to the narrow therapeutic window for hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine, the Bahamas Pharmacy Council encourages both medical providers and pharmacists to follow established guidelines when prescribing and filling these medications.

To protect the public health, the following guidance is being provided:

No prescription or medical order for hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine should be dispensed by a pharmacist for a COVID-19 diagnosis unless ***all*** the following apply:

1. The prescription bears a written diagnosis from the prescriber consistent with the evidence for its use.
2. The diagnosis has been confirmed by a positive test result which is documented on the prescription or medical order.
3. The prescription is limited to no more than a seven (7) day supply.
4. No refills may be permitted unless a new prescription or medical order is furnished.