



March 25, 2020

Web Announcement 2146

Attention Prescribers and Pharmacies: Emergency Regulation on Prescribing and Dispensing Hydroxychloroquine and Chloroquine during Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Update to [Web Announcement 2143](#): Effective March 24, 2020, hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine prescriptions are no longer covered for the treatment of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

An emergency regulation prepared by the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy was signed by Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak on March 24, 2020, restricting the prescribing and dispensing of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine during the COVID-19 outbreak. These restrictions include prohibiting the prescribing and dispensing of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine for a COVID-19 diagnosis or any new diagnosis made after the effective date of the regulation, requiring an ICD-10 code and limiting the prescription to a 30-day supply for any new prescription for these drugs.

The provisions of this emergency regulation do not apply to a chart order for an inpatient in an institutional setting or to an existing course of treatment for a diagnosis made before the effective date of the regulation. This emergency regulation is based upon recommendations from the Governor's COVID-19 Medical Advisory Team.

This emergency regulation will ensure access for Nevada patients to hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine for legitimate medical purpose. Unless otherwise notified, this regulation is in place for the next six months.

The above restrictions and additional COVID-19 response efforts and guidance can be accessed at the Nevada Board of Pharmacy COVID-19 Information webpage: [http://bop.nv.gov/resources/ALL/COVID-19 Information/](http://bop.nv.gov/resources/ALL/COVID-19%20Information/)

To access hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine, patients must have a history of previous use with the medication under an approved diagnosis to continue to get the prescription filled. Hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine will be covered only for Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved indications and will continue to require a diagnosis code on the prescription. Prescriptions for hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine are restricted to a 30-day supply.

Prescribers are encouraged to include the applicable diagnosis code on written prescriptions for inclusion on the electronic pharmacy claim. The submitted claim should include a Diagnosis Code Qualifier (field 492-WE) of "02," indicating ICD-10, as well as the appropriate Diagnosis Code (Field 424-DO). Claims for hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine will be denied if the diagnosis information is not included. For questions related to this requirement, please contact the OptumRx Clinical Call Center at (855) 455-3311.

The emergency regulation may be reviewed on the Nevada Board of Pharmacy webpage at: [http://bop.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/bop.nv.gov/content/board/ALL/2018 Meetings/Emergency%20Regulation%20-%20Chloroquine%20and%20Hydroxychloroquine%20COVID-19.pdf](http://bop.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/bop.nv.gov/content/board/ALL/2018%20Meetings/Emergency%20Regulation%20-%20Chloroquine%20and%20Hydroxychloroquine%20COVID-19.pdf)