Arkansas Department of Health

4815 West Markham Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-3867 • Telephone (501) 661-2000
Governor Asa Hutchinson
José R. Romero, MD, Interim Secretary of Health

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GUIDANCE FOR THE USE HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE AND CHLOROQUINE FOR THE TREATMENT OF COVID 19

On June 15, 2020 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) revoked the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the use of chloroquine (CQ) and hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) to treat COVID-19 after concluding it was "no longer reasonable to believe that oral formulations of HCQ and CQ may be effective in treating COVID-19, nor is it reasonable to believe that the known and potential benefits of these products outweigh their known and potential risks". The latter included serious cardiac adverse events. Based on this information, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) updated its guidance related to HCQ and CQ indicating that their use for treatment of COVID-19 should be avoided in both outpatient and hospitalized settings.

CQ and HCQ can continue to be administered, prescribed, and dispensed for FDA approved medical conditions under supervision of a patient's healthcare provider. Unapproved use (i.e. "off label use") of these medications is left to the discretion of individual clinicians and their patients. However, the ADH wants clinicians to be aware that coadministration of HCQ or CQ with remdesivir, an FDA EUA approved medication for treatment of COVID-19, is not recommended based on data showing an antagonistic effect of these medications on the antiviral activity of remdesivir.

References:

https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-revokes-emergency-use-authorization-chloroquine-and

https://www.fda.gov/media/138945/download

https://www.fda.gov/media/137566/download