



PROVIDER QUICK TIPS

#236

Hydroxychloroquine Quantity Limits – COVID-19

On March 28, 2020, the United States Food and Drug Administration issued an Emergency Use Authorization that allows individuals with COVID-19 to be treated with Hydroxychloroquine. In an effort to prevent potential shortages and stockpiling of hydroxychloroquine, the Medical Assistance Program, including the fee-for-service (FFS) program and the physical health HealthChoices and Community HealthChoices managed care organizations (MCOs), is implementing the following quantity limits:

- Hydroxychloroquine prescriptions with a quantity greater than 4 tablets/day require prior authorization
- Hydroxychloroquine prescriptions with a day supply greater than 10 days require prior authorization
 - In an effort to prevent gaps in care for non-COVID-19 patients prescribed hydroxychloroquine, approvals will be automated at the pharmacy point-of-sale for medically accepted non-COVID-19 diagnoses.
 - Prior authorization overrides will be issued for current users of hydroxychloroquine for non-COVID-19 related diagnoses. These patients will be able to obtain their usual day supply at the pharmacy.
 - Prior authorization requests for longer durations for treatment of COVID-19 will be reviewed for medical necessity and approved based on current medical literature and specialist/prescriber input.
 - No prior authorization approvals will be issued for COVID-19 prophylaxis.

The above limits align with the dosing found in current medical literature for both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 indications. Should the recommended dosage of hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19 change in the coming days, these limits will be adjusted by Department of Human Services (DHS).

This guidance will remain in effect for 90 days or while a valid disaster declaration authorized by the Governor related to the COVID-19 virus remains in effect, whichever is earlier.

Information on MA Program coverage related to COVID-19, to include an FAQ document, can be found on the DHS website [here](#).

Additional information is also available on the [CDC website](#) and through [CMS](#).

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has a dedicated page for COVID-19 that provides regular updates. Click [here](#) for the most up to date information regarding COVID-19.

Thank you for your service to our MA recipients.
We value your participation.
Check the Department's website often at: www.dhs.pa.gov.

