

**Managed Care Operations Memorandum**  
***General Operations***  
**MCOPS Memo # 04/2020-006**

**Date:** April 3, 2020

**Subject:** Hydroxychloroquine Quantity Limits

**To:** All Physical Health (PH) HealthChoices Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) – Statewide

**From:** Laurie Rock, Director, Bureau of Managed Care Operations

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**Purpose:**

The Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) is issuing this Operations Memorandum to provide direction to Physical-Health HealthChoices Managed Care Organizations (PH-MCOs) regarding the imposition of quantity limits on the prescription drug hydroxychloroquine.

**Background:**

On March 28, 2020, the federal Food & Drug Administration issued an Emergency Use Authorization that allows individuals with COVID-19 to use the anti-malaria prescription drug hydroxychloroquine to relieve the acute respiratory symptoms of COVID-19. To prevent potential shortages and stockpiling of hydroxychloroquine, the Medical Assistance (MA) Fee-for-Service (FFS) Program has implemented quantity limits on the drug.

**Hydroxychloroquine Quantity Limits:**

Effective immediately, the MA program is imposing 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 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 DHS.

**Next Steps:**

MCOs should align their prior authorization policies with those described above. MCOs should make any necessary systems changes to effectuate these policies and advise providers of these changes.

**Obsolete:**

This MC OPS Memo will remain in effect for 90 days or while a valid disaster declaration by the Governor related to the COVID-19 virus remains in effect, whichever is earlier. OMAP may re-issue this Ops Memo as appropriate.