

Measures to Take in Anticipation of Hydroxychloroquine Shortages

Given the anticipated run on Plaquenil (hydroxychloroquine), it may be reasonable to cite this information on the website as pharmacists and pharmacies will be essentially key in managing the dispensing, distribution and allocation. Many rheumatologists are concerned given their current patients with “legitimate” indications may be shorted because of hoarding or shifting. Below is a dialogue that a couple of rheumatologists suggested:

1. “Call the pharmacy and ask to speak directly to the pharmacist.”
2. “Identify yourself and that you are calling from XXX Rheumatology Specialists.”
3. “Because hydroxychloroquine has been shown to have some efficacy against COVID-19, we anticipate a shortage and are trying to avoid drug hoarding, which is already occurring.”
4. “Please convert any 90-day prescriptions to 30 day prescriptions. Please have patients contact our office regarding possibly halving their dose.”
5. “Please limit dispensing hydroxychloroquine ONLY to patients who have a documented autoimmune disease.”
6. “If medical personnel are prescribing hydroxychloroquine for themselves or their families, please notify the head pharmacist at KRMC, Hugh Easley.”
7. “If patients argue or object, direct them to have their prescribing physician contact Dr. XXXX or Dr. xxxxxxx at our office.”