

PHARMAC Briefing

COVID-19: Update on PHARMAC planning for supply chain management

Date due: 30 March 2020

Security level: IN CONFIDENCE

To: Hon Dr David Clark, Minister of Health

Copy to: PHARMAC Board

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Sarah Fitt	Chief Executive, PHARMAC	[REDACTED]

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Out of Scope

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COVID 19 specific treatments

Out of Scope

There has been a lot of interest in the use of hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID 19 cases. However, there has not been any definitive evidence to confirm its efficacy for this indication.

In order to preserve the continuity of supply for existing patients and for new patients who need it for its registered indications, effective from Tuesday 24 March, PHARMAC has restricted funded access to hydroxychloroquine for its Medsafe approved indications only, which include arthritis, lupus and malaria.

Out of Scope

PHARMAC is aware that several DHBs will be taking part in randomised clinical trials of the treatment of COVID 19, including use of hydroxychloroquine [REDACTED] DHB hospitals will be purchasing medicines for use in these trials from sources outside of the contracted suppliers, so this will not impact supply for funded patient groups.

Out of Scope

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From: Rachel Read

Sent: Tuesday, 24 March 2020 9:23 am

Cc: Lizzy Cohen [REDACTED]

Subject: No surprises - restriction on supply of hydroxychloroquine

Hi [REDACTED]

This is a no surprises update for the Minister.

There has been a lot of interest around the use of hydroxychloroquine for treatment of COVID-19 cases, although there has not been any specific evidence to confirm its efficacy for this indication. Effective from today PHARMAC has restricted funded access to this medicine in order to preserve the continuity of supply of it for existing patients and for new patients needing it for its registered indications.

We are proposing to restrict the funded supply to the following indications only (i.e. Medsafe approved indications);

- Active rheumatoid arthritis
- Systemic and discoid lupus erythematosus
- Malaria treatment
- Malaria suppression

PHARMAC is aware that several DHBs will be taking part in Randomised Clinical Trials for the treatment of COVID-19, including use of hydroxychloroquine. DHB hospitals will be purchasing medicines for use in these trials from sources outside of the contracted suppliers, meaning this will not impact supply for funded patient groups.

Communications will be going out to pharmacies, prescribers, wholesalers, distributors and suppliers this morning.

If you require any further information about hydroxychloroquine please let me know.

Regards Rachel

Rachel Read | Policy Manager, Engagement and Implementation

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Excerpt from weekly key messages to the Minister's office sent 9 April, 17 April and 24 April

- PHARMAC has restricted funded access to hydroxychloroquine in order to preserve the continuity of supply for existing patients and for new patients who need it for its registered indications.

Excerpt from weekly key messages to the Minister's office sent 24 March, and 2 April

Restrictions to supply of hydroxychloroquine

- There has been a lot of interest in the use of hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19 cases. There has not been any specific evidence to confirm its efficacy for this indication.
- Effective from Tuesday 24 March PHARMAC has restricted funded access to hydroxychloroquine in order to preserve the continuity of supply for existing patients and for new patients who need it for its registered indications.
- It is important that access to the stock we have is carefully managed to ensure that all New Zealanders who need it over the coming months will have access to it.
- We are restricting access to the funded supply to the following indications only (i.e. Medsafe approved indications):
 - Active rheumatoid arthritis
 - Systemic and discoid lupus erythematosus
 - Malaria treatment
 - Malaria suppression
- PHARMAC is aware that several DHBs will be taking part in Randomised Clinical Trials of the treatment of COVID-19, including use of hydroxychloroquine. DHB hospitals will be purchasing medicines for use in these trials from sources outside of the contracted suppliers, so this will not impact supply for funded patient groups.