



MEMORANDUM

To: Licensees & Interested Parties

From: Malcolm J Broussard, Executive Director

Date: March 25, 2020

Re: Limitations on Dispensing Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine During COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Although the Board rescinded the previous Emergency Rule on this topic on March 23 based on new information at the time that the supply chain was adequate, there is new information emerging now which suggests that New Orleans and the rest of Louisiana are evolving as a new epicenter for the Coronavirus disease 2019. New data reveals the per capita caseload in Louisiana lags only New York and Washington.

As additional supplies of the drugs are re-routed to Louisiana, it would be prudent for Louisiana pharmacists to exercise their professional discretion in the dispensing of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine for at least the next 30-60 days. During their meeting today, the members voted to issue this guidance document in lieu of another emergency rule.

- With respect to the dispensing of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine for the COVID-19 outbreak, the Board strongly encourages dispensing pharmacists in community pharmacies to ensure the prescription bears a COVID-19 diagnosis, and to dispense a maximum of a 14-day supply, with no refills unless a new prescription is presented.
- With respect to the dispensing of chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine for all other diagnoses, the Board strongly encourages dispensing pharmacists in community pharmacies to dispense a maximum of a 30-day supply per dispensing.
- The Board specifically encourages pharmacists to exercise their professional discretion when presented prescriptions written for large quantities, or for what appears to be outside the context of a legitimate physician-patient relationship, or for what may not be a legitimate medical purpose.

NOTICE: In compliance with Act 256 of the 2019 Louisiana Legislature, the Board gives public notice that any information submitted to the Board may become public record unless specifically exempted by the Public Records Law, R.S. 44:1 *et seq.*

NOTICE: In compliance with Act 655 of the 2018 Louisiana Legislature, the Board gives notice to its licensees and applicants of their opportunity to file a complaint about the Board's actions or procedures. You may submit such complaints to one or more of the following: (1) Louisiana Board of Pharmacy; 3388 Brentwood Dr., Baton Rouge, La 70809; 225.925.6496; info@pharmacy.la.gov (2) Committee on House & Governmental Affairs; La. House of Representatives; PO Box 44486; Baton Rouge, LA 70804; 225.342.2403; h&ga@legis.la.gov (3) Committee on Senate & Governmental Affairs; La. Senate; PO Box 94183; Baton Rouge, LA 70804; 225.342.9845; s&g@legis.la.gov