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## COVID-19 Response Efforts - April 17, 2020

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The State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy is committed to protecting the health and safety of Ohioans during the COVID-19 outbreak. The Board posted a document on its website that provides COVID-19 guidance and response efforts, including the issuance of waivers to assist licensees in addressing operational needs. This document will be updated regularly and can be accessed by visiting: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVID](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVID). **Please be advised that new and updated waivers were issued today (see below).**

For more information on the state's efforts to address coronavirus, visit [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov) or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH.

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### COVID-19 Drug Shortage Guidance Issued

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, hospitals and other healthcare facilities may experience shortages of drugs necessary to care for patients. The Board of Pharmacy, in consultation with the Ohio Department of Health, has developed the following guidance to assist hospitals and other healthcare facilities in obtaining drugs that may not be commercially available from manufacturers or wholesalers. This guidance can be accessed by visiting: [www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVIDshortage](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVIDshortage).

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### New and Updated Waivers and Guidance Issued

- **NEW:** Formally adopted FDA's "[Temporary Policy for Compounding of Certain Drugs for Hospitalized Patients by Outsourcing Facilities During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)" for Ohio-licensed outsourcing facilities. This guidance can be accessed [here](#).
  - **NEW:** Authorized the temporary waiver of the 5 percent limit on the occasional wholesale sales of dangerous drugs by a licensed pharmacy set forth in rule [4729:5-3-09](#) of the Administrative Code. This guidance can be accessed [here](#).
  - **NEW:** Extends recertification of primary and secondary engineering controls in accordance with guidance issued by USP. This guidance can be accessed [here](#).
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### Emergency Rules for Dispensing Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine **UPDATED FAQs 4/17/2020**

On March 22, 2020, Governor Mike DeWine authorized the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy to file emergency rule 4729-5-30.2 of the Administrative Code that places limits on dispensing chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** The rule only applies to prescriptions that are dispensed for outpatient use.

To address certain questions, the Board has issued two additional FAQs to its guidance document ([www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVIDrx](http://www.pharmacy.ohio.gov/COVIDrx)):

**Q4) Am I able to prescribe chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine for other conditions?**

Yes, as long as the prescriber includes a diagnosis code on the prescription. The limitations set forth in rule are only for the off-label prescribing of these medications for COVID-19. Other off-label uses (e.g. dermatomyositis, cutaneous disease, etc.) are still permitted.

**Q5) Are urgent cares included in the definition of emergency department?**

Emergency department includes emergency departments in hospitals and free-standing emergency departments. It does not include urgent care facilities.

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