



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES
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Protocol for the use of Investigational Drugs for the Treatment of COVID-19 March 2020

Hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil®)
Chloroquine
Lopinavir-ritonavir (Kaletra®)

Background:

There is no current evidence from RCTs to recommend any specific anti-COVID-19 treatment for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection. Treatment may be considered in symptomatic patients with conditions associated with severe disease. All agents listed above are considered investigational, and the decision to use these should be made only with close attention to the patient's history, clinical status, comorbidities, and interacting medications.

Members who were already on the above medications for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), malaria, or HIV-1 will be grandfathered and therefore not require prior authorization (PA).

Although Medicaid is usually not permitted to pay for non-FDA approved, investigational, cosmetic, experimental or clinical trial products, exceptions are being considered in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Criteria for approval:

Patient has met the necessary legal criteria as a person under investigation (PUI) and meets the following criteria:

1. Patient has tested positive for COVID-19
2. The prescription is limited to no more than a 14 days supply.

No pharmacist shall dispense hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine to an NJ FamilyCare member except when written as prescribed for an FDA-approved indication; or as part of an FDA-approved clinical trial related to COVID-19 for a patient who has tested positive for COVID-19, with such test result documented as part of the prescription. No other experimental or prophylactic use shall be permitted, and any permitted prescription is limited to one fourteen day prescription with no refills.