

Provincial Drugs & Therapeutics Antimicrobial Stewardship Subcommittee

To:	PEI Physicians, Nurse Practitioners
From:	PD&T Antimicrobial Stewardship Subcommittee
Date:	March 30, 2020
Re:	Judicious use of hydroxychloroquine during the COVID-19 pandemic

There are currently no approved therapies for COVID-19, and no therapies have been robustly evaluated. Therefore, prescribing hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19 outside the context of a clinical trial, or without an Internal Medicine or Infectious Disease/Medical Microbiology consult, **is medically inappropriate and is strongly discouraged**. Provincial Medical and Pharmacy Colleges from across the country have sent out similar statements to highlight this issue.

To ensure limited stocks of hydroxychloroquine are preserved in the Province, this medication should only be used according to the Public Health Agency of Canada and the World Health Organization, or for other clearly established indications (e.g. rheumatological conditions).

As emerging therapies are proposed, please apply the same ethical principles and ensure we are all providing medications based on evidence of their efficacy.

For questions please contact Greg German (Infectious Disease Consultant and Health PEI Medical Microbiologist; 894-2515; GJGerman@ihis.org) or Sarah Lutes (Provincial Antimicrobial Stewardship Pharmacist; 894-2587; saelutes@ihis.org).