

OptumRx Communication

COVID-19 Policy Update: Hydroxychloroquine and Chloroquine Use

As we continue to monitor the impact across the country from the COVID-19 situation, OptumRx is taking action to support our clients, limit the burden on a stressed provider network and ensure our members have continued access to their medications. As new and rapidly evolving information is known, OptumRx is assessing our policy to ensure we continue to meet the clinical needs of our members and comply with applicable CDC guidance, as well as Federal, State and Local government requirements.

Hydroxychloroquine has recently been featured in the news as a potential treatment for moderate to severe COVID-19 illness. The use of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine in COVID-19 is causing increased utilization and risk of drug shortage.

OptumRx implemented a quantity limit for hydroxychloroquine to preserve continued supply for chronic users with existing conditions while ensuring access for treatment of COVID-19 when appropriate. This policy will go into effect **March 31, 2020**.

Policy Details:

- In order to preserve continued supply for chronic indications and ensure access to acute use for malaria, amebiasis and COVID-19, OptumRx will be implementing the following quantity limit:
 - **Hydroxychloroquine** will be limited to 30 tablets within a 90 day time period with an automatic bypass for members who have utilized at least a 60 day supply within the past 120 days.
 - **Chloroquine** will be limited to 30 tablets within a 90 day time period.
- Members newly starting on hydroxychloroquine for rheumatoid arthritis or systemic lupus will be able to request quantities beyond 30 tablets through a prior authorization.
- OptumRx will message pharmacists at the point of dispensing to encourage filling for appropriate COVID-19 use.
- OptumRx will continue to review and determine whether there is an ongoing need for quantity limit to remain in place.