



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NOTICE: UPDATED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHLOROQUINE USE FOR COVID-19

NOTE: THIS CIRCULAR REPLACES CIRCULAR 2020/03/22/EDP/02

On the 27th of March 2020, the National Department of Health released the document titled, *Clinical Management of Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Disease (Version 3)* with updated guidance on chloroquine use as follows:

There is currently no good evidence for any specific therapy for COVID-19. Any investigational drugs or therapeutics should be reserved for hospitalized patients. It should ideally be administered as part of a trial, but at a minimum, it should be administered under the Monitored Emergency Use of Unregistered Interventions (MEURI) framework.

The guideline on the clinical management of COVID-19 disease is undergoing continuous review and will be updated as amendments are made and new evidence emerges. The most up-to-date version can be accessed on the website of the National Department of Health using the following link: <http://www.health.gov.za/index.php/component/phocadownload/category/628> .Please visit the link at least once a week to ensure you have the most up-to-date version of the guideline.

As you are aware chloroquine is recommended in the Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List for other indications e.g. rheumatoid arthritis. The continued rational use of chloroquine for these indications is recommended.

Kind regards

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ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL: HEALTH

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