

www.tga.gov.au/alert/new-restrictions-prescribing-hydroxychloroquine-covid-19

Contact TGA: info@tga.gov.au | 1800 020 653 | More contact info

Australian Government
Department of Health
Therapeutic Goods Administration

Search TGA

Home Safety information Consumers Health professionals Industry About the TGA News room

Safety information Home » Safety information » Alerts » All alerts

A- A+ Share

Information for health professionals

There are no medicines that have been approved by the TGA for treatment of COVID-19, therefore prescribing of any medicine for the treatment of COVID-19 is considered off-label use. There is currently no clear data to inform clinical guidance on the use, dosing, or duration for COVID-19 treatment.

To help maintain the supply of hydroxychloroquine in Australia and discourage inappropriate prescribing, effective from 24 March 2020 the TGA is implementing changes to the Poisons Standard to place restrictions on the medical specialists who can initiate prescribing of the medication. Initiation of hydroxychloroquine is restricted to the following medical specialties as per the Medical Board list: dermatology; intensive care medicine; paediatrics and child health; physician; and emergency medicine.

General practitioners and other medical practitioners (e.g. hospital Resident Medical Officers (RMOs) and doctors in training) can continue to prescribe repeats for hydroxychloroquine to patients in line with the registered indications for patients in whom the medication was prescribed prior to 24 March 2020. General practitioners and doctors in training can prescribe these medicines for continued treatment of patients where treatment was previously initiated by one of the specialists.

Drugs and Poisons control legislation in the States and Territories will be updated as required to reflect this change to the Poisons Standard.