



**STATE OF TENNESSEE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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**BILL LEE**  
Governor

**LISA PIERCEY, MD, MBA, FAAP**  
Commissioner

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 26, 2020

**TO:** **Health Care Provider**

**FROM:** Lisa Piercey, MD, MBA, FAAP  
Commissioner

**SUBJECT:** Statement on Chloroquine, Hydroxychloroquine and Azithromycin

According to FDA and CDC, there are no FDA-approved therapeutics to treat, cure, or prevent COVID-19 at this time. Specifically, hydroxychloroquine, chloroquine, and azithromycin are not FDA-approved for COVID-19 prevention or treatment. Likewise, there are no currently available data from Randomized Clinical Trials (RCTs) to inform clinical guidance on the use, dosing, or duration of hydroxychloroquine, chloroquine, or azithromycin for the indications being investigated.

Research is currently underway, and prescribers must be mindful that evidence of effectiveness is minimal and that there are known harms of these medications. Specifically, hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin, for example, are associated with QT prolongation and caution is advised when considering these drugs in patients with chronic medical conditions (e.g. renal failure, hepatic disease) or in patients receiving medications that might interact to cause arrhythmias.

We want providers and pharmacists to act with their best discretion to ensure patients continue to receive appropriate treatment in times of shortages. We discourage inappropriate prescribing or hoarding of this medication for prophylaxis or treatment of COVID-19, which may limit access for patients that require these medications for therapy for approved indications.

Thank you.