



Wisconsin Medical Society



Wisconsin Medical Society/Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin Joint Statement March 27, 2020

During the current COVID-19 crisis, the state's physicians and pharmacists have an ethical and moral responsibility to ensure a safe and adequate supply of necessary medications for Wisconsin's patients. Together, the Wisconsin Medical Society (Society) and the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin (PSW) affirm the joint statement of the American Medical Association, American Pharmacists Association, and American Society of Health-System Pharmacists on the ordering, prescribing or dispensing of COVID-19 medications (<https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/joint-statement-ordering-prescribing-or-dispensing-covid-19>).

The Society and PSW urge our physicians and pharmacists, working in close coordination as part of the entire healthcare team, to collectively ensure that all patients have sufficient and appropriate access to their necessary prescriptions and medications.

We are aware that some providers are preemptively and prophylactically prescribing medications that have been identified as potential treatments for COVID-19. Examples include chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin. In addition, others have been acquiring extensive supplies of these medications in anticipation of their potential need. We oppose these actions.

We encourage and support the multiple clinical trials that are in development to determine appropriate treatments for COVID-19 and appreciate the continued efforts of producers and manufacturers to ensure their success. Stockpiling medications deprive patients not suffering from COVID-19 of their medically indicated and required treatments and threaten their lives and well-being. Together, we firmly oppose these actions.

We strongly support a pharmacist's professional responsibility to make reasonable inquiries to a prescriber to resolve any questions about a prescription. If a prescription is not for a legitimate medical purpose, it should not be written, and it should not be dispensed. That determination can and should be made on a case-by-case basis, and physicians, pharmacists and other members of the healthcare team should work together and resolve questions.

It is imperative that the broader healthcare community collaborate to ensure that medically necessary treatments remain readily available for the patients who need them. Through judicious and ethical practices, we can maintain appropriate prescribing and dispensing practices, promote patient safety, and improve patient outcomes.

We are all affected by the COVID-19 crisis and it is incumbent upon all us to fight it together. With our national partners, we applaud the innumerable selfless acts by Wisconsin's healthcare professionals who are putting themselves in harm's way as first responders in this public health crisis.