Dear Ms. Arntsen:

This email is in response to your email to New York State Commissioner of Health, Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D., regarding access to hydroxychloroquine to treat autoimmune disorders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Governor Cuomo's Executive Order No.202.11 limits the use of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine for COVID-19 related diagnoses to hospital or inpatient settings. Per this Executive Order, prescribers are required to denote on prescriptions for hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine the condition(s) for which such medications are being used.

At this time outpatient pharmacies in New York State should be reserving their supplies of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine for those patients with an FDA or compendia supported use such as lupus or rheumatoid arthritis. When prescribed to treat one of these conditions, a patient can receive up to a 90-day supply if authorized by the prescriber. A supply of hydroxychloroquine has been provided to New York State from the Strategic National Stockpile to be used for the treatment of COVID-19 related diagnoses specifically in the inpatient and acute care setting.

Thank you for writing to share your concerns. If you have additional questions or need further assistance, please contact

Sincerely,

Medicaid Pharmacy Policy
Division of Program Development and Management

New York State Department of Health
Office of Health Insurance Programs
Corning Tower [OCP-720]
Albany, NY 12237
518-486-3209
518-473-5508 (fax)
PPNO@health.ny.gov