STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Lori A. Shibinette
Commissioner

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ORDER TO RESPOND TO CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

WHEREAS, since December 1, 2019, there have been over 1,083,084 people worldwide diagnosed with a novel coronavirus disease now known as coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19);

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu, issued Executive Order 2020-04 declaring a state of emergency due to COVID-19;

WHEREAS, there are now more than 540 people who have tested positive in New Hampshire for COVID-19 and numerous other suspected cases are under investigation;

WHEREAS, the Department has been monitoring reported drug shortages and finds that there is a statewide shortage and/or threatened shortage of the following medications that may be used to treat COVID-19: chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, and albuterol inhalers; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner has determined individuals diagnosed with lupus or rheumatoid arthritis, those hospitalized patients with COVID-19, and those patients with COVID-19 enrolled in a clinical trial are high risk or critical needs groups that shall receive priority for chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner has determined individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 and individuals already established on albuterol inhalers are high risk or critical needs groups that shall receive priority for albuterol inhalers; and

WHEREAS, to ensure individuals in the high risk or critical needs group have access to necessary medications, and to avoid any disruptions to current treatments, the Commissioner finds it is necessary to control, restrict, and ration chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, and albuterol inhalers.

Now therefore, in consultation and with concurrence of His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu, and pursuant to RSA 21-P:53, III, it is hereby ordered, effective immediately, that:

1. Chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, and albuterol inhalers shall be subject to the following controls, restrictions, and rationing:

    a) Outpatient prescriptions for patients not already established on chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine shall be limited to a 30-day supply.

b) No prescriptions of chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine shall be issued or dispensed as prophylaxis treatment for COVID-19.

c) Prescribing providers, when issuing a prescription in any form for chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine, must document an indication for all patients, including patients already established on these medications.

d) For albuterol inhalers, prescribing providers shall limit prescriptions to one inhaler with up to three refills for all new prescriptions to treat respiratory symptoms of COVID-19.

e) For all prescriptions of albuterol inhalers, pharmacists shall conduct a prospective drug utilization review to ensure adherence to asthma controller or maintenance medications, and counsel patients that are non-compliant and over-utilizing rescue inhalers.

2. This Order shall remain in effect until the State of Emergency declared by the Governor is terminated, or this Order is rescinded, whichever shall happen first.

Lori Shibinette

Lori A. Shibinette, Commissioner
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

4/3/2020
Date