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Governor

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AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION
BOARD OF PHARMACY
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**STATEMENT OF THE MAINE BOARD OF PHARMACY ON DISPENSING
CHLOROQUINE, HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE, AND AZITHROMYCIN**

There have been reports nationally as well as in Maine that health care practitioners are prescribing chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, and azithromycin to prevent or treat COVID-19, and that they are prescribing these medications for themselves, family members, or for patients without symptoms or a COVID-19 diagnosis. Such activity may lead to stockpiling of medication, inappropriate use, and potential drug shortages that could adversely impact patients with legitimate and immediate needs for these medications.

During this coronavirus emergency, pharmacists will play a vital role in ensuring that Maine patients continue to receive the prescription medications that they need.

**IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, THE BOARD
REMINDS MAINE PHARMACISTS THAT:**

Pharmacists should use their professional judgment and take appropriate steps to verify that newly issued prescriptions for chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, and azithromycin are issued for legitimate medical purposes and not for prophylactic treatment unless consistent with prescribing guidelines of the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. To prevent drug shortages, pharmacists should contact prescribers to confirm the diagnoses of patients newly prescribed these medications, and pharmacies should refrain from inappropriately stockpiling these medications. A pharmacist should expect that a prescription for these medications for purposes of treating COVID-19 contain a diagnosis code of an active or presumed case of COVID-19 and be limited to a 14-day supply. Pharmacists should continue to fill prescriptions for up to 90-day supplies for patients who have existing prescriptions for any of these medications for treatment of conditions other than COVID-19.

Effective: April 11, 2020

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