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Consultant Pharmacists for Healthcare Organizations, Industry, and the Community.

Hydroxychloroquine Fact Sheet for Long Term Care Nurses and Clinicians

*As new data emerges on the possible treatments for COVID-19 infections, older medications such as Hydroxychloroquine have been quickly pushed in to clinical trials and use in our clinical environment. It is important to note that the following information is provided to assist and remind clinicians of the precautions associated with this medication, and is not in any way meant to endorse use or infer safety or efficacy, as at the time of this publication, **Hydroxychloroquine is not currently FDA approved, labeled, or otherwise indicated for COVID-19 treatment or prophylaxis for patients outside of the acute care setting.***

FDA Approved Indications: Uncomplicated Malaria, Lupus Erythematosus, Rheumatoid Arthritis. *Also authorized for:* Hospitalized COVID-19 adult and adolescent patients weighing more than 50kg
How Supplied: 200mg tablets, non-film coated tablets that may be crushed, if necessary.

Warnings and Monitoring of Particular Importance to LTC Nurses and other Clinicians:

Cardiac Effects, including Cardiomyopathy and QT prolongation:

- **Hydroxychloroquine prolongs the QT interval.** Ventricular arrhythmias and torsades de pointes have been reported in patients taking hydroxychloroquine, and use with other medications that also cause QT prolongation is not advised by the manufacturer.
- **Life-threatening and fatal cardiomyopathy** have been reported with use. ECG findings may include atrioventricular, right or left bundle branch block.

Hypoglycemia: Hydroxychloroquine has been shown to cause severe hypoglycemia including loss of consciousness that could be life threatening, even in residents not previously known to be diabetic.

Lowering of Seizure Threshold: Residents with known seizure disorders may be at higher risk of breakthrough seizures when taking Hydroxychloroquine.

Worsening of psoriasis and porphyria: Use of Hydroxychloroquine in patients with psoriasis may precipitate a severe attack of psoriasis.

Other Important Precautions:

Hepatic/Renal Disease: Use with caution in patients with hepatic disease or alcoholism or in conjunction with known hepatotoxic drugs, monitor labs for blood disorders and be advised that any dosage prescribed may need to be evaluated and possibly reduced.

Important Drug Interactions:

Digoxin: May increase digoxin levels. Serum digoxin levels should be closely monitored in patients receiving combined therapy.

Insulins and antidiabetic meds: May enhance the effects of a hypoglycemic treatment, a decrease in doses of insulin or antidiabetic drugs may be required.

Other Common Adverse Effects: Dizziness, headache, psychosis, pruritis, weight-loss, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting

As always, please see the FDA Full Prescribing Information for complete details, including additional important warnings and precautions, located here:

https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2007/009768s041lbl.pdf

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