

Drug Policy

Policy:	Chloroquine tablets (generic) hydroxychloroquine tablets (Plaquenil® - Concordia Pharmaceuticals Inc., generics) lopinavir/ritonavir tablets, oral solution (Kaletra® - AbbVie Inc.)	Annual Review Date: Last Revised Date: 03/22/2020
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Table 1

Generic name	Medication allowed per 365 day period
chloroquine 250 mg tablets	56 tablets
chloroquine 500 mg tablets	28 tablets
Plaquenil (hydroxychloroquine) 200 mg tablets	30 tablets
Kaletra 200 mg/50 mg tablets	56 tablets
Kaletra 100 mg/25 mg tablets	112 tablets
Kaletra 80 mg-20 mg/ml oral solution	160 ml (1 bottle)

Overview

The medications listed in Table 1 above are approved use in the treatment of several different diseases including various parasitic diseases, rheumatoid arthritis (RA), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), and HIV-1 infection.¹⁻³

The purpose of this policy is to prevent the stockpiling, misuse and/or overuse of the above medications. The policy provides sufficient medication to treat one episode of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in a 365-day period. For coverage of additional medication, prior authorization is required.

AUTOMATION

If the patient has a history of chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, Kaletra (lopinavir/ritonavir) prior to 03/01/2020, the claim will adjudicate for chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, Kaletra (lopinavir/ritonavir) respectively. If the patient has a prescription for a HIV medication (see Appendix A for STC codes/descriptions used) prior to 03/01/2020, the claim will adjudicate. When available, the ICD-9/ICD-10 codes for HIV, RA, SLE, and lupus nephritis will be used as part of automation to allow approval of the requested medication (see Appendix B)

CRITERIA

Approval duration as noted below in criteria.

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Drug Policy

chloroquine 250 mg tablets

1. For patients who need to treat an additional episode of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in a 365-day period, a one-time override of 56 tablets may be approved.
2. Patients who need malaria prophylaxis therapy, a quantity sufficient to allow up to 500 mg (2 tablets) weekly for a period of 2 weeks before entering a malaria endemic area and continue 500 mg (2 tablets) weekly during the stay in the endemic area and 500 mg (2 tablets) weekly for 8 weeks after return from the endemic area may be approved.

chloroquine 500 mg tablets

1. For patients who need to treat an additional episode of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in a 365-day period, a one-time override of 28 tablets may be approved.
2. Patients who need malaria prophylaxis therapy, a quantity sufficient to allow up to 500 mg (1 tablet) weekly for a period of 2 weeks before entering a malaria endemic area and continue 500 mg (1 tablet) weekly during the stay in the endemic area and 500 mg (1 tablet) weekly for 8 weeks after return from the endemic area may be approved.

Plaquenil 200 mg tablets

1. For patients who need to treat an additional episode of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in a 365-day period, a one-time override of 30 tablets may be approved.
2. Patients who need malaria prophylaxis therapy, a quantity sufficient to allow up to 400 mg (2 tablets) weekly for a period of 2 weeks before entering a malaria endemic area and continue 400 mg (2 tablets) weekly during the stay in the endemic area and 400 mg (2 tablets) weekly for 4 weeks after return from the endemic area may be approved.
3. For patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), or lupus nephritis, up to 90 tablets per 30 days may be approved for 12 months.

Kaletra 200/50 mg tablets

1. For patients who need to treat an additional episode of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in a 365-day period, a one-time override of 56 tablets may be approved.
2. Patients who are using Kaletra for the treatment of HIV-1 infection, approve the requested amount.

Kaletra 100/25 mg tablets

1. For patients who need to treat an additional episode of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in a 365-day period, a one-time override of 112 tablets may be approved.
2. Patients who are using Kaletra for the treatment of HIV-1 infection, approve the requested amount.

Kaletra 80/20 mg per ml oral solution

1. For patients who need to treat an additional episode of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in a 365-day period, a one-time override of 160 ml (1 bottle) may be approved.
2. Patients who are using Kaletra for the treatment of HIV-1 infection, approve the requested amount.

REFERENCES

1. Chloroquine tablets [prescribing information]. Jacksonville, FL: Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals Inc.; December 2013.
2. Plaquenil tablets [prescribing information]. St. Michael, Barbados: Concordia Pharmaceuticals Inc.; June 2018.
3. Kaletra tablets, oral solution [prescribing information]. North Chicago, IL: AbbVie Inc.; December 2019.
4. Dong L, Hu S, Gao J. Discovering drugs to treat coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). *Drug Discoveries & Therapeutics* 2020; 14(1):58-60.
5. Hydroxychloroquine. *Clinical Pharmacology* [Internet]. Tampa (FL): Elsevier. c2020 – [cited 2020 March 20]. Available from: <http://www.clinicalpharmacology.com>.