March 25, 2020

TO: Hospitals

FROM: New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH)  
Division of Epidemiology

HEALTH ADVISORY: HOSPITAL ACCESS TO HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE  
AND AZITHROMYCIN FOR THE TREATMENT OF COVID-19  
PURSUANT TO PUBLIC HEALTH LAW 206(1)(j)

- NYSDOH is working collaboratively, with physicians and other practitioners who are treating certain patients hospitalized with COVID-19, to implement scientific studies and research on the efficacy and tolerability of hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin.
- NYSDOH has secured a supply of both drugs and will make them available at no charge to physicians and other practitioners who are treating certain patients hospitalized with COVID-19, as clinically appropriate and if the hospital has a limited supply. As a condition of participation in this state-approved clinical study, authorized by the FDA, physicians and other practitioners initiating treatment in certain patients hospitalized with COVID-19 must agree to provide NYSDOH with expedited access to patient information to allow for the evaluation of clinical outcomes and efficacy under Public Health Law Section 206(1)(j), so as to reduce morbidity and mortality.
- Physicians and other practitioners who are initiating treatment for certain patients hospitalized with COVID-19 must agree to provide treatment only to symptomatic patients with COVID-19.
- A process is being developed for receiving and fulfilling requests for all medications associated with the COVID-19 response and surge capacity. Information on this process will be forthcoming.
- Physicians and other practitioners initiating treatment for certain patients hospitalized with COVID-19 should e-mail COVIDTREATMENT@health.ny.gov, providing the following information to:
  - Treating practitioner’s name, hospital, phone number, and e-mail;
  - Name, phone number, and e-mail of the person who will serve as the main point of contact for the facility, including for receipt of medication; AND
  - Number of patients currently in the facility who are candidates for treatment with hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin.

Resources:
- New York State COVID-19 Website
- CDC Information for Clinicians on Therapeutics Options for COVID-19 Patients