



September 4, 2020

COPY

Cody Wiberg
Executive Director
Minnesota Board of Pharmacy
2829 University Ave. SE, Suite #530
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Dear Mr. Wiberg,

Our organization is writing this letter as a follow up to the recent change in policy issued by Governor Walz in Executive Order 20-84. This order, issued on August 12, rescinded the authority of pharmacies to limit patient access to hydroxychloroquine (HCQ), as prescribed by their treating physicians for the treatment of COVID-19.

We support Governor Walz's decision. Medical treatment decisions should be made by doctors working together with their patients in the patient's best interests. Hydroxychloroquine has been deemed a safe medication for a least 65 years. As an FDA-approved drug, hydroxychloroquine can be used for both off-label and on-label use and thus should not be limited by executive orders issued outside of the exam room. Furthermore, recent research findings reported by Yale epidemiologist Dr. Harvey Risch found more than 50 studies supporting the use of HCQ for Covid-19. Therefore we are pleased with the governor's decision to lift the prohibition on HCQ.

In light of these lifted restrictions, what action has the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy taken to ensure that pharmacies will dispense hydroxychloroquine as ordered by physicians for the care and treatment of COVID-19 patients?

This letter is a data practices request. Please send us the documents, letters, emails, or other communications that the Board of Pharmacy has distributed to Minnesota pharmacies notifying them that the ban on the dispensing of hydroxychloroquine has been lifted and directing them to dispense hydroxychloroquine as prescribed by doctors and other prescribers for the diagnosis of Covid-19. If the Board has sent no communications to pharmacies, or if communications *supporting* the continued ban on pharmacies have been distributed, please send us those documents and provide a written rationale for the inaction or continued support for limiting access to HCQ despite EO 20-84.

Thank you for your attention to our request, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Twila Brase, RN, PHN
President and Co-founder