



ABSTRACT

COVID-19 – Use of Hydroxy-chloroquine for prophylaxis treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infection for Health care workers and Asymptomatic contacts as per ICMR guidelines –Permission - Granted – Orders – Issued.

Health and Family Welfare (P1) Department

G.O. (Ms) No. 236

Dated: 04.06.2020

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு 2051

சார்வரி வைகாசி-22

Read:

1. Letter from ICMR on Revised guidelines on use of Hydroxy-chloroquine for prophylaxis treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infection dated on 22.05.2020.
2. Letter from the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, R.No.4736/IDSP/2020,dated 02.06.2020.

ORDER:

In the letter first read above, the ICMR has now issued revised guidelines on use of Hydroxy-chloroquine for prophylaxis treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infection for Health care workers and Asymptomatic contacts.

2. In the letter second read above, the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine has requested the Government to issue necessary orders for using Hydroxy-chloroquine for prophylaxis treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infection for Health care workers and Asymptomatic contacts as per the revised ICMR guidelines.

3. After careful examination, the Government hereby accords permission to the Director of Medical Education, the Director of Medical and Rural Health Services and the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine for the use of Hydroxy-chloroquine for prophylaxis treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infection for Health care workers and Asymptomatic contacts as per the revised ICMR guidelines which is annexed to this order.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

**BEELA RAJESH
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To

The Director of Medical Education, Chennai – 600 010.

The Director of Medical and Rural Health Services, Chennai – 600 006.

The Director of Public Health Preventive Medicine, Chennai – 600 006.

Copy to:

All District Collectors.

The Commissioner, Greater Chennai Corporation, Chennai – 600 003.

The Principal Secretary/Secretary II to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chennai - 600 009.

The Senior Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare,
Chennai – 600 009.

The Personal Secretary to Chief Secretary, Chennai – 600 009.

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//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

S. S. S. S.
SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE

(G.O(Ms)No.236. Health and Family Welfare (P1) Department, dated 03.06.2020)

Revised advisory on the use of Hydroxy-chloroquine (HCQ) as prophylaxis for COVID-19 infection issued by ICMR dated on 22.05.2020

1. Eligibility criteria for HCQ prophylaxis:

- i. All asymptomatic healthcare workers involved in containment and treatment of COVID-19 and asymptomatic healthcare workers working in non-COVID hospitals/non-COVID areas of COVID hospitals/blocks
- ii. Asymptomatic frontline workers, such as surveillance workers deployed in containment zones and paramilitary/police personnel involved in COVID-19 related activities
- iii. Asymptomatic household contacts of laboratory confirmed cases.

2. Exclusion/contraindications

The drug is contraindicated in persons with known case of:

- Retinopathy,
- Hypersensitivity to HCQ or 4-aminoquinoline compounds
- G6PD deficiency
- Pre-existing cardiomyopathy and cardiac rhythm disorders
- The drug is not recommended for prophylaxis in children under 15 years of age and in pregnancy and lactation.

Note: Rarely the drug causes cardiovascular side effects such as cardiomyopathy and rhythm (heart rate) disorders. In that situation the drug needs to be discontinued. The drug can rarely cause visual disturbance including blurring of vision which usually self limiting and improves on discontinuation of the drug.

3. Dosage

S.NO	Category of personnel	Dosage
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Asymptomatic household contacts of laboratory confirmed cases	400 mg twice a day on Day 1, followed by 400 mg once weekly for next 3 weeks; to be taken with meals
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All asymptomatic healthcare workers involved in containment and treatment of COVID-19 and asymptomatic healthcare workers working in nonCOVID hospitals/non-COVID areas of COVID hospitals/blocks• Asymptomatic frontline workers, such as surveillance workers deployed in containment zones and paramilitary/police personnel involved in COVID-19 related activities	400 mg twice a day on Day 1, followed by 400 mg once weekly for next 7 weeks; to be taken with meals

4. Use of HCQ prophylaxis beyond 8 weeks [in categories 3 (2) above]

With available evidence for its safety and beneficial effect as a prophylactic drug against SARS-COV-2 during the earlier recommended 8 weeks period, the experts further recommended for its use beyond 8 weeks on weekly dosage with strict

monitoring of clinical and ECG parameters which would also ensure that the therapy is given under supervision. Based on the available evidence, it has been opined that HCQ is relatively safe, when certain contraindications are avoided, and has some beneficial effect as a prophylactic option.

5. Monitoring

- An ECG (with estimation of QT interval) may be done before prescribing HCQ prophylaxis.
- An ECG should be done in case any new cardiovascular symptoms occurs (e.g., palpitations, chest pain syncope) during the course of prophylaxis.
- An ECG (with estimation of QT interval) may be done in those who are already on HCQ prophylaxis before continuing it beyond 8 weeks.
- One ECG should be done anytime during the course of prophylaxis.

6. Key considerations

- The drug has to be given under strict medical supervision with an informed consent.
- The drug has to be given only on the prescription of a registered medical practitioner.
- Advised to consult with a physician for any adverse event or potential drug interaction before initiation of medication. The contraindications mentioned in the recommendations should strictly be followed.
- They should be advised to consult their physician (within their hospital/surveillance team/security organization) for any adverse event or potential drug interaction before initiation of medication.
- The prophylactic use of HCQ to be coupled with the pharmacovigilance for adverse drug reactions through self-reporting using the Pharmacovigilance Program of India (PvPI) helpline/app. (available at: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vinfotech.suspectedadversedrugreaction&hl=en_IN)
- If anyone becomes symptomatic while on prophylaxis, he/she should immediately contact the health facility, get tested as per national guidelines and follow the standard treatment protocol. Apart from the symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, breathing difficulty), if the person on chemoprophylaxis develops any other symptoms, he should immediately seek medical treatment from the prescribing medical practitioner.
- All asymptomatic contacts of laboratory confirmed cases should remain in home quarantine as per the National guidelines, even if they are on prophylactic therapy.
- Simultaneously, proof of concept and pharmacokinetics studies should be continued/ taken up expeditiously. Findings from these studies and other new evidence will guide any change further in the recommendation.
- They should follow all prescribed public health measures such as frequent washing of hands, respiratory etiquettes, keeping a distance of minimum 1meter and use of Personal protective gear (wherever applicable).

Note: It is reiterated that the intake of above medicine should not instil a sense of false security.

**BEELA RAJESH
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

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01/03/2020
SECTION OFFICER