



Pharmacy Notice

COVID-19 Medication Limitations beginning March 25, 2020

Given the quickly evolving national health emergency, MedStar Family Choice (MFC) must act to help ensure our members have timely, safe access to medications. MFC is taking steps to help prevent stockpiling and gaps in therapy as it pertains to the utilization of the following key medications: albuterol MDI, chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, Kaletra, and azithromycin.

Below is a list of each medication and the changes MFC will implement on March 25, 2020.

ALBUTEROL MDIs: A quantity limit will be added to albuterol inhalers, limiting them to two per 30 days (200 inhalations per device). These changes apply only to inhalers and not nebulizer solutions or oral tablets.

CHLOROQUINE and HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE: MFC carefully examined the last six months of utilization of these medications (prior to the COVID-19 pandemic). All members who were prescribed these medicines by a Rheumatologist, Nephrologist, Dermatologist, or Immunologist OR are known to have a rheumatological disease (eg: lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, etc.) are grandfathered and will NOT need a Prior Authorization (PA) to get further medication fills. Going forward (from March 25, 2020), all NEW prescriptions for chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine will require PA. In order to be approved, members must have a rheumatological disorder or meet current FDA indications. MFC will not approve these medications for outpatient use for COVID-19.

KALETRA: All requests for Kaletra will require PA. This medication will only be approved for members with HIV/AIDS.

AZITHROMYCIN: Azithromycin 250 mg tablets will be limited to 6 tablets or one blister pack of 6 tablets per 60-day period.

It is our sincere hope that these changes will prevent shortfalls in the supply of necessary medications for our sickest, most vulnerable hospitalized members affected by COVID-19. If you have questions, you may contact Dr. Danielle Gerry at **410-933-2295**.