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## CRA Position Statement: COVID-19 and Hydroxychloroquine Supply

The Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) is committed to supporting its members in their efforts to continue to deliver optimal care for their patients with rheumatic diseases. At the same time, the CRA acknowledges the gravity of the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of identifying effective treatments in a timely and scientific manner. The identification of hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) as a possible treatment for COVID-19 has led to significant off-label use, which now threatens access for patients with lupus and other types of inflammatory rheumatic disease who are reliant on this medication for disease control.

Although the CRA supports ongoing study for effective treatment for COVID-19, it calls for priority access to HCQ for patients with rheumatic conditions (including lupus and certain types of inflammatory arthritis) to treat these chronic diseases. The CRA further urges policy makers, regulators, and industry to work together to increase Canada's supply of HCQ to meet the higher demand.

### Recent Related Statements:

- [Joint Statement on Use of HCQ and Azithromycin for COVID-19 from OMA, OPA and RNAO](#)
- [Quebec College Pharmacists & MSSS \(MoH\) Statement](#)
- [CPA Statement on Treatment of COVID-19 with Chloroquine or Hydroxychloroquine](#)
- [INESSS Position Statement on COVID-19 and HCQ \(FR\)](#)
- [Joint Statement on HCQ – LFA – ACR – AADA – AF](#)
- [Guiding Principles from ACR for Scarce Resource Allocation During the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Case for Hydroxychloroquine](#)

*Last updated March 29, 2020*