

MEMO



To: Network Pharmacy
From: Elixir
Date: Friday, October 1st, 2021
RE: Ivermectin COVID-19 Treatment Warning

Dear Pharmacy:

Please review the American Medical Association (AMA), American Pharmacists Association (AphA), and American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) statement on ending the use of Ivermectin to treat COVID-19:

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)¹ and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)² have issued advisories indicating that Ivermectin is not authorized or approved for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19. The National Institutes of Health³, World Health Organization⁴, and Merck⁵ (the manufacturer of this drug) all state there is insufficient evidence to support the use of Ivermectin to treat COVID-19. The Infectious Diseases Society of America Guidelines on the Treatment and Management of Patients with COVID-19⁶ also recommend against the use of Ivermectin outside of a clinical trial.

Use of Ivermectin for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 has been demonstrated to be harmful to patients. A recent CDC Health Alert Network Advisory⁷ recommends that healthcare professionals should counsel patients against use of Ivermectin as a treatment for COVID-19, including emphasizing the potentially toxic effects of this drug, such as “nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Overdoses are associated with hypotension and neurologic effects such as decreased consciousness, confusion, hallucinations, seizures, coma, and death.”

Medicare Part D Coverage Requirements

A covered Part D drug is defined as a drug that is included in a Part D plan's formulary, or treated as being included in a Part D plan's formulary as a result of a coverage determination or appeal, and obtained at a network pharmacy or an out-of-network pharmacy per CMS guidance.

CMS guidance details a drug can only be considered a **covered outpatient drug if it:**

- Is approved for safety and effectiveness as a prescription drug by the FDA

CMS guidance details a **covered outpatient drug does NOT include:**

- Any drug product for which a manufacturer has not submitted to CMS evidence to demonstrate that the drug product satisfies the criteria for safety and effectiveness
- Any drug product or biological used for a medical indication which is not a medically accepted indication

Thank you,

Elixir

¹ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/han00449.asp>

² Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/why-you-should-not-use-ivermectin-treat-or-prevent-covid-19>

³ National Institutes of Health - <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/therapies/antiviral-therapy/ivermectin/>

⁴ World Health Organization - <https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/who-advises-that-ivermectin-only-be-used-to-treat-covid-19-within-clinical-trials>

⁵ Merck - <https://www.merck.com/news/merck-statement-on-ivermectin-use-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

⁶ Infectious Diseases Society of America Guidelines on the Treatment and Management of Patients with COVID-19 - <https://www.idsociety.org/practice-guideline/covid-19-guideline-treatment-and-management/>

⁷ CDC Health Alert Network Advisory - https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/pdf/CDC_HAN_449.pdf

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