

Clinical Brief #29 | COVID-19

Developed Thursday, June 18, 2020

INFORMATION FOR ALL CLINICIANS

Clinical leaders are providing frequent updates to all clinicians in an effort to keep you current about AdventHealth's response to COVID-19. The following topics are included in this brief:

- **Potential Drug Interaction for COVID-19 Treatment involving Remdesivir**
- **Dexamethasone for Patients with Severe Respiratory Complications**
- **Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine**
- **Visitation Policy Update: Inpatient Acute Care**
- **Respiratory Protection Use**

Potential Drug Interaction for COVID-19 Treatment Involving Remdesivir

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning health care providers about a newly discovered potential drug interaction related to the investigational antiviral drug remdesivir, which has received emergency use authorization for the treatment of hospitalized COVID-19 patients with severe disease.

Based on a recently completed non-clinical laboratory study, the FDA revised the [fact sheet for health care providers](#) that accompanies the drug to state that co-administration of remdesivir and chloroquine phosphate or hydroxychloroquine sulfate is not recommended as it may result in reduced antiviral activity of remdesivir.

Dexamethasone for Patients with Severe Respiratory Complications

An Oxford University news release announces the results of a randomized clinical trial to test potential COVID-19 treatments, including the low-dose steroid treatment dexamethasone. [Read the press release here.](#)

Dexamethasone reduced deaths by one-third in ventilated patients and by one-fifth in other patients receiving oxygen only. No benefit was seen among patients not requiring respiratory support.

Oxford researchers note that dexamethasone is the first drug shown to improve survival in COVID-19 and is also inexpensive, on the shelf and can be used immediately. Oxford is working to publish the full details as soon as possible.

Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine

On June 15, 2020, the [FDA revoked](#) the EUA for chloroquine (CQ) and hydroxychloroquine (HCQ). The FDA has deemed CQ and HCQ to not be effective in treating COVID-19, and any known or potential benefits no longer outweigh the known and potential risks. CQ and HCQ remain safe and effective to use when treating or preventing malaria and autoimmune conditions when following FDA-approved labeling.

Visitation Policy Update: Inpatient Acute Care

Our [visitation policy has been updated](#) to reflect the AdventHealth service line approach to address COVID-19 and associated care practices, and to support our team members in extending our mission to our patients and their families.

Below is a summary of the pertinent updates:

- Pediatric patients may have two visitors at a time per day.
- End-of-life patients, regardless of COVID-19 status, may have two visitors at a time, with a maximum of six visitors per day.

Exceptions can only be made by facility C-Suite discretion. Please refer to the current personal protective equipment (PPE) statement of procedures (SOP) for the PPE requirements for visitors of COVID-19-positive and person under investigation (PUI) end-of-life patients.

Respiratory Protection Use

Due to the recent updates to the PPE SOP and current inventory on hand of respiratory protection, we are providing guidance, [using this grid](#), on the acceptable use of AdventHealth-procured and/or approved respirators and face masks. Please remember that team member fit testing is required for all N95 respirators. As we begin using industrial respirators, we recommend cohorting to specific teams to avoid universal fit testing of new masks. KN95 masks may be used, but ONLY for source control.

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We encourage you to take care of yourself, your families and each other as we move through this ongoing response to COVID-19.

GREATER AS A WHOLE | RESOURCES

Online

[Novel Coronavirus Information Site](#)

[AdventHealth Coronavirus Website](#) | [Videos](#) | [Blog](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

Department of Health: [Florida](#), [Georgia](#), [North Carolina](#), [Kansas](#), [Kentucky](#), [Texas](#), [Wisconsin](#)

Worldwide Coronavirus Data: [Johns Hopkins' global cases webpage](#)

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