

**ALERT Concerning Prescriptions for Hydroxychloroquine, Chloroquine, Azithromycin, Kaletra, and other medications**

**To All Health Care Providers with Prescriptive Authority Licensed by the Maryland Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners**

Please be advised that the Maryland Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners has received reports of inappropriate prescribing activity related to the medications **Chloroquine, Hydroxychloroquine, Azithromycin**, and other agents that are purportedly efficacious in preventing or treating COVID-19. The Board is also aware of numerous reports that prescribers are inappropriately issuing prescriptions and refills for those medications and hoarding or stockpiling the medications for themselves, family members, friends, and coworkers without any apparent medical indication, or in anticipation of COVID-19 related illness.

The Board is concerned that the inappropriate prescribing and stockpiling of the medications is causing shortages of those drugs and compromising access to drug therapy for patients who are prescribed the drugs for FDA approved indications.

Public health authorities are working to obtain better data on the potential benefits - and most appropriate - use of these drugs in the state of emergency. To date, these drugs are being investigated as potential COVID-19 treatments. Currently, there is only anecdotal evidence of their potential usefulness. All prescribers licensed by the Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners are reminded of the obligation to use sound professional judgement in determining if and when medications are clinically appropriate to prescribe.