

## **CoVID-19 - Information for General Public**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with its various stakeholders, partner Ministries and agencies is working round the clock to ensure the safety of every Indian in the wake of spread of CoVID-19.

### **Important updates- Availability and use of necessary medicines in the country:**

1. As per the clinical management protocol, Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) in combination with Azithromycin is to be considered as an off – label indication only in patients with severe disease and requiring ICU management, under close medical supervision and monitoring of its side effects.
2. Similarly, as per the protocol for prophylaxis, the HCQ has been prescribed only for Asymptomatic Healthcare Workers and Asymptomatic Household contacts and laboratory confirmed cases, on the advice/prescription of medical practitioner.
3. India is one of the largest suppliers of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients and formulations globally, hence there is no reason for panic.
4. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has already ensured more than adequate supply of Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) tablets for all patients, health workers and household contacts of confirmed cases.
5. HCQ is a prescription medicine and its sale is allowed on prescription only.
6. The guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare states that "Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) should be utilized as per prescription and is not advised for patients with cardiac irregularities or those suffering from cardiac disease which can be harmful."
7. DO NOT acquire or take any medicine without prescription as it may have adverse effects on your health.
8. Govt. of India is ensuring that there is no hoarding of medicines and that all essential drugs are available at all medical stores/ pharmacies throughout the country.
9. Illegal sale or dispensing of Hydroxychloroquine will lead of legal action under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940.

**There is absolutely NO NEED TO PANIC.**