

Ms Sue Farrington
Co-Chair, RAIRDA
Chief Executive
Scleroderma and Raynaud's UK
Bride House
18-20 Bride Lane
London EC4Y 8EE

Dr Keith Ridge CBE
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

NHS England and NHS Improvement
Medical Directorate
Office of the Chief Professional Officers
(Pharmacy)
Skipton House
80 London Road
London
SE1 6LH

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Email: keith.ridge@nhs.net

Dear Ms Farrington

Thank you for your correspondence of 23rd March, on behalf of the Rare Autoimmune Rheumatic Disease Alliance regarding the continued availability of hydroxychloroquine for people with Lupus.

NHS England and NHS Improvement are working closely with the Department for Health and Social Care, industry and others in the supply chain to help ensure patients can access the medicines they need, including hydroxychloroquine, and precautions are in place to reduce the likelihood of any shortage.

While clinical trials are being established to test hydroxychloroquine as an agent in the treatment of COVID-19, there are centrally held supplies of hydroxychloroquine for those clinical trials. Separate supplies of hydroxychloroquine for patients that are already using the medicine for its licensed indications can be accessed through usual routes.

I am working closely with pharmacists and GPs to support this message and restrict prescriptions and supply to those with current clinical need for licensed indications or as part of a clinical trial.

The Department for Health and Social Care and NHS England and NHS Improvement are in regular contact with suppliers to ensure stock continues to remain available in the supply chain to support patients who require hydroxychloroquine for its licensed indications. In addition, there is an export ban in place to protect UK stocks of hydroxychloroquine that are intended for UK patients.

I hope this information is helpful to you and we would be grateful if you could communicate this message to your members.

Yours sincerely



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