

FDA Alert Regarding Ivermectin Use for COVID-19 August 27, 2021

TYPE OF INFORMATION: Practice Update

INTENDED AUDIENCE: Aurora Outpatient Pharmacies, Physicians, Non-physician prescribers

Situation S	• There has been a recent increase in ivermectin prescriptions seen at Aurora outpatient pharmacies. • The FDA recently released a consumer alert warning against the use of ivermectin preparations to treat COVID-19.
Background B	• Ivermectin has in vitro activity against SARS-CoV-2 at concentrations much higher than those achievable in humans with traditional ivermectin dosing. • Available studies of ivermectin for COVID-19, most of which are uncontrolled, observational, from abroad and unpublished, suggest ivermectin may hasten the time to recovery for patients with COVID-19. However, no randomized, controlled trial thus far has shown any benefit in using ivermectin to treat or prevent COVID-19 infection. • Based on reports of consumers purchasing ivermectin products meant for cattle and sheep and ingesting them, the FDA issued a warning against using ivermectin for unapproved uses, including treatment and prevention of COVID-19.
Assessment A	• The FDA has not granted an emergency use authorization for the use of ivermectin in COVID-19 and it is not approved for this indication. • NIH does not recommend ivermectin use outside of a clinical trial. • Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) recommends against use of ivermectin in COVID-19 outside of a clinical trial. • Currently available studies do not demonstrate a clear benefit in the treatment or prophylaxis of COVID-19. • Higher than usual doses of ivermectin can be dangerous and cause hypotension, ataxia, seizures, coma, and even death.
Recommendation R	1. Ivermectin prescriptions should only be filled when ordered for the treatment of parasitic infections (e.g. Strongyloidiasis, Onchocerciasis) or for the treatment of scabies. 2. Prescriptions for ivermectin as a treatment for COVID-19 will not be filled by Aurora outpatient pharmacies. 3. Antimicrobial Stewardship/DPC will revise this recommendation if additional data are published that clearly support the use of ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19 infections.
Questions? Please contact: Advocate Aurora Drug Policy Center DPC@aah.org	