

## Important Update on Medication Supply

Media and public health authority reports are fueling concerns about the impact of COVID-19 on drug supply. We want you to know:

- 1. Consonus has not experienced any systemic, broad based negative impact on medication supply.***
- 2. It is not necessary to “stock up” or make broad changes to your pharmacy ordering patterns at this time***

Our primary supplier, Cardinal Health, is one of the largest, most sophisticated distributors of medications in the world. Consonus’ team of logistics and supply experts works closely with the Cardinal team every day to ensure medications are available. Together, we closely monitor our daily Backorder Rate. The Backorder Rate is simply the percentage of orders that we are unable to fill on the same day an order is placed. Here’s what that number looks like in 2020.

Month	Backorder Rate
January	2.1%
February	2.0%
March	1.9%
April MTD	1.8%

Those numbers are very consistent with past results over several years. In most cases, the few orders that don’t ship same day are very low volume drugs that we don’t carry in stock. Those are typically provided on the next business day.

COVID-19 has not resulted in a dramatic shift in general availability of medications. That availability, coupled with Consonus' daily deliveries, ***means it is not necessary to "stock up" or make broad changes to your pharmacy ordering patterns at this time.***

There are however, a few specific product categories that merit close monitoring and our collective attention.

### **Hydroxychloroquine -**

Hydroxychloroquine is currently under investigation in clinical trials for pre-exposure or post-exposure prophylaxis and treatment of patients with mild, moderate, and severe COVID-19.

Although US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has NOT approved hydroxychloroquine specifically for the treatment of patients with COVID-19 some clinicians are anecdotally prescribing this medication for COVID-19 diagnosis.

Status: Consonus has secured no charge inventory to treat a limited number of confirmed COVID+ patients. See action steps below to assist with directing this supply responsibly.

#### Recommendation Actions:

1. Please notify your Consultant Pharmacist If you have a confirmed COVID-19 case. This proactive notification is important, it helps us receive additional allocation of the drug from our supplier.
2. Order Hydroxychloroquine by submitting a prescription with COVID-19 as the specified diagnosis.

## **Nebulizers / Metered Dose Inhalers –**

The CDC has identified that administration of medication via nebulizer to a COVID-19 positive patient increases the healthcare worker exposure risk due to respiratory secretions generated during administration. To mitigate this potential exposure risk many facilities and prescribers are requesting that nebulizer treatments are switched to metered dose inhalers.

Status: Consonus has adequate supply to support broad based switching in facilities or communities with current pending or confirmed COVID-19 case(s). We are also securing additional inventory to support additional adoption of this guidance. Work with your Consultant Pharmacist to establish a plan tailored to your needs. Note, the CDC guidance has created some pressure on available supply, so tight coordination with us will help direct product to where it's needed most.

## **Supportive Therapies -**

Recent media reports have called attention to localized shortages of certain pain medications that are needed in support of treatment of the most severe COVID-19 cases. Some of those medications are also used in the LTC setting to help bring comfort to residents that need that assistance.

Status: To date, Consonus has not experienced shortages of this group of medications. The supply challenges appear to be localized to certain geographic “hot spots”. As a precautionary step, we have moved a number of these medications to our Active Watch list and will advise in advance if we foresee any upcoming challenges.