Guidance on the management of drugs requiring monitoring during COVID-19

Adapted from information published on SPS website

Hydroxychloroquine drug monitoring in primary care during COVID-19

The following advice is for the management of patients taking DMARDs for rheumatology related conditions. General guidance on management of rheumatology patients during COVID-19 is available from the British Society for Rheumatology.

This page gives advice on drug monitoring in primary care during COVID-19 for hydroxychloroquine in stable patients (stable patients defined as those who have been on current treatment for >12 months and at a stable dose for >6 weeks)

For non-stable patients the standard monitoring requirements apply as per the current shared care guidelines available on the SWYAPC website

During the COVID-19 pandemic, recommendations are:

- Consider suspending annual eye assessment with ophthalmologist advice

For patients with symptoms of COVID-19, recommendations are:

- NICE and the British Society for Rheumatology recommend to continue hydroxychloroquine in patients known or suspected to have COVID-19
- Refer patients to advice from Versus Arthritis

This page was developed in conjunction with Kalveer Flora, Chair, Rheumatology Pharmacists UK (RPUK); Lead Pharmacist, Specialised Rheumatology CRG for NHS England. We are hugely grateful for her input.