

# 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*