



## BOARD OF PHARMACY – QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Dispensing Ivermectin for COVID-19

September 2, 2021

This update is intended to support pharmacists and prescribers in navigating treatment options during the ongoing pandemic. The Board of Pharmacy recognizes the recent increase of patients receiving prescriptions for the anti-parasitic drug, Ivermectin, to treat COVID-19. The board also recognizes the challenging position our frontline pharmacists are facing in advising patients regarding this treatment, recommending alternatives, and consulting with prescribers. The board continues to support pharmacists in exercising their independent professional judgment and approaching each patient/prescriber scenario individually.

#### FAQs:

#### **Q1. If a patient receives a prescription for ivermectin, am I obligated to fill it?**

**A1.** If, after assessing for the patient's severity of illness, underlying condition(s), drug interaction(s), and other considerations to determine the appropriateness of treatment, the pharmacist may choose to fill this prescription, but is not obligated to. Pharmacists are encouraged to seriously consider the AMA, APhA, and ASHP's position to "strongly oppose the ordering, prescribing, or dispensing of ivermectin to prevent or treat COVID-19 outside of a clinical trial."

#### **Q2. Can I contact the practitioner to discuss a patient's ivermectin prescription?**

**A2.** Yes. Pharmacists are encouraged to contact or attempt to contact the practitioner to discuss appropriateness of treating the patient with ivermectin.

#### **Q3. What is an appropriate response to patients expecting their prescription to be dispensed?**

**A3.** The following are all appropriate examples:

- Inform the patient ivermectin is not FDA approved, it is not supported by the AMA, APhA, and ASHP, and that there is insufficient data to support its use as a safe and effective treatment for COVID-19.
- Recommend an alternative treatment option, such as monoclonal antibodies.
- Recommend the patient discuss this with their primary care provider.
- Recommend the patient seek care immediately by visiting the emergency room if moderate to severe symptoms are present.
- Other recommendations the pharmacist believes is in the best interest of the patient.

#### **Q4. I have attempted to refuse to fill ivermectin prescriptions, but the patient continues to insist this must be filled. If, after consulting with the prescribing practitioner, s/he also reiterates the need for it to be filled, what is the most appropriate course of action?**

**A4.** Pharmacists can only do their best to explain the reason behind refusing to fill. If consulting with the practitioner provides the pharmacist with additional information to determine the prescription should be dispensed, that decision should be made because the pharmacist believes it is in the best interest of the patient to do so, not because of pressure from the practitioner to fill it. If either a practitioner or a pharmacist is concerned about the prescribing or dispensing of this medication, the licensee may choose to file a complaint with the Investigative Unit.

#### Resources

- AMA, APhA, ASHP opposition (September 1, 2021): <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-apha-ashp-statement-ending-use-ivermectin-treat-covid-19>
- FDA guidance on Ivermectin (March 5, 2021): <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/why-you-should-not-use-ivermectin-treat-or-prevent-covid-19>
- CDC Health Advisory (August 26, 2021): [https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/pdf/CDC\\_HAN\\_449.pdf](https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/pdf/CDC_HAN_449.pdf)
- CBPL COVID page: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/CBPLCOVID-19Information.aspx>