



Pharmacy Pearls

The Use of Ivermectin for COVID-19

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Statements from Multiple Medical Societies

“The American Medical Association (AMA), American Pharmacists Association (APhA), and American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) **strongly oppose the ordering, prescribing, or dispensing of ivermectin to prevent or treat COVID-19** outside of a clinical trial”

The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) COVID-19 treatment guidelines also **recommend against the use of ivermectin** outside of a clinical trial

Both the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have issued advisories indicating that **ivermectin is not authorized or approved for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), World Health Organization (WHO), and Merck (the manufacturer of ivermectin) all state that **there is insufficient evidence to support the use of ivermectin to treat COVID-19**

- Ivermectin is approved by the FDA for human use to treat internal/external parasitic infections
- It lacks approval for prevention or treatment of COVID-19
- Ivermectin also has veterinary uses; medications formulated for animals should not be used in humans- these are highly concentrated and contain inactive ingredients that can pose a significant toxicity risk to humans

Reports show that **outpatient prescribing and dispensing of ivermectin have increased 24-fold since before the pandemic, and exponentially over the past several months**

Ivermectin is not harmless- **calls to poison control centers due to ivermectin ingestion have increased five-fold** from their pre-pandemic baseline; potentially toxic effects of ivermectin include nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea; overdoses are associated with hypotension and neurologic effects such as confusion, hallucinations, seizures, coma, and death

More information can be found on the FDA’s consumer update website [here](#).

The most effective strategies to minimize the spread of COVID-19 are: vaccination, wearing a face mask, social distancing, frequent hand washing, and avoiding large crowds.

Should patients call to request prophylactic ivermectin, consider sharing that in the same way you would avoid prescribing a drug with no evidence for high blood pressure, diabetes, or pneumonia, you will not prescribe a drug with no evidence for COVID-19.