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Re: West Virginia Board of Pharmacy Emergency Rule in Response to Covid-19

Dear Secretary of State:

The State of West Virginia is currently under a declared State of Emergency for the Covid-19 pandemic. The drugs chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine are thought to potentially be helpful in the treatment of Covid-19. These two drugs are also used in the treatment of other conditions unrelated to Covid-19.

Currently, both nationally and in West Virginia, some prescribers have begun writing prescriptions for these drugs for family, friends, and coworkers in anticipation of Covid-19 related illness. This is leading to a shortage of the drug both for patients prescribed the drug for issues unrelated to Covid-19 and potentially to individuals suffering from the effects of Covid-19.

In response to this issue, the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy is proposing an emergency rule pursuant to its general rulemaking authority found in West Virginia Code § 30-5-7, along with West Virginia Code §§ 29A-3-15 and 30-5-14. This rule seeks to ensure that these drugs are only dispensed to individuals currently in need of these drugs.

Sincerely,

Ryan L. Hatfield  
General Counsel