

March 24, 2020

The Honorable Ken Paxton  
Office of the Attorney General  
P.O. Box 12548  
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

Re: Concerns over COVID-19 treatment options.

Attorney General Paxton:

On behalf of our over 460 Texas member hospitals and health systems, the Texas Hospital Association thanks you for you and your teams' steadfast leadership and attention to issues related to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. Your work will undoubtedly help mitigate any negative effects from this disaster.

THA has serious concerns related to the general public stockpiling scarce, important resources sought by Texas hospitals to provide safe, effective care to Texans during the outbreak. This includes medication, pharmaceuticals, and a broad range of potential treatments, equipment, supplies, and components not in demand prior to the disaster declaration.

For example, media reports highlight dwindling supplies of medications such as chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin. These drugs may prove effective against the virus, and the general public now seeks to acquire them in above-normal quantities. Such medication should be administered inside of a hospital and under the care and supervision of medical professionals – as recently an Arizona man died, and his wife required critical care, after attempting to self-medicate with similar drugs. The fight against this outbreak will be waged in hospitals, and Texas hospitals should have unfettered access to all options and supplies needed.

Please keep this issue in mind and take any action necessary to protect Texas hospitals as they stand on the front lines and combat the virus. On behalf of Texas hospitals and the public they serve, thank you for your continued time and attention. Please let us know how THA can help.

Sincerely,



Cesar J. Lopez  
Associate General Counsel  
Texas Hospital Association

cc: Office of Gov. Greg Abbott