

## **The COPCOV trial**

### ***Why are we still doing a trial of hydroxychloroquine in COVID-19?***

Use of hydroxychloroquine in COVID-19 has been in the media a lot recently.

Treatment trials have shown it doesn't help patients who have already got COVID-19

Claims have been made that the drug could be harmful. In countries like the USA it's become a political controversy and split public opinion

### ***What do we know now?***

The treatment trials have confirmed the long-established safety and tolerability record of hydroxychloroquine. The UK Medicines Healthcare Regulatory Agency has "green-lighted" the COPCOV trial to go ahead after careful consideration of all this evidence.

Many laboratory studies indicate hydroxychloroquine to be active against COVID-19 and observational studies in patients suggest taking hydroxychloroquine may prevent COVID-19. Many antiviral treatments only work really well given very early but no trial using hydroxychloroquine to prevent the virus before exposure has been done.

If hydroxychloroquine does protect people such as hospital, care-home and ambulance staff from COVID-19 this would be very important breakthrough in efforts to combat COVID-19.

The COPCOV trial is badged by the Chief Medical Officer as being of Urgent Public Health Importance.

### **What does COPCOV involve for participants?**

**Potential participants** are given full information, complete and sign a consent form and are asked questions to make sure they are eligible and it is safe for them to take part.

#### **Enrolled participants**

- ◆ Take a tablet a day for three months (3-5 tablets the first day as a "loading dose"). The tablets may be hydroxychloroquine or an identical placebo.
- ◆ Give a blood sample at the first visit
- ◆ Use a smartphone app to record their health every day
- ◆ Come to a brief study visit every month and give a further drop of blood
- ◆ Come to a study visit after 3 months and give a final blood sample
- ◆ Are followed up for a maximum of 2 more months if they develop any symptoms of COVID-19

**If you are interested in learning more and potentially taking part please visit [www.copcov.org](http://www.copcov.org)**