

Dear colleague

Hydroxychloroquine prevention of COVID-19

I am writing to make you aware of the opportunity to participate in a major clinical study, which is underway.

COPCOV is looking at whether hydroxychloroquine can prevent COVID-19 infection and is recruiting people working in healthcare settings (*e.g.*, nurse, care-assistant, doctor, therapist, dietitian, cleaner, porter, food service worker, phlebotomist, ambulance worker, radiographer etc.).

The COPCOV trial will run across Europe, Africa and Southeast Asia to find out if hydroxychloroquine can be used to prevent COVID-19 infection. In the UK the Chief Medical Officer has prioritised COPCOV as an Urgent Public Health study.

Although hydroxychloroquine is widely used to prevent malaria and to treat some rheumatological diseases it also has antiviral activity. There has been a lot of interest and discussion of the role of hydroxychloroquine in COVID-19. Latest evidence is that while the drug does not work as a treatment for established infection these did not assess whether it could work as prevention. The large published treatment trials have confirmed the safety and tolerability of hydroxychloroquine used as it is in the COPCOV trial.

Participation involves taking either hydroxychloroquine tablets or placebo tablets for three months. Participants will meet a member of the research team at enrolment, and at monthly intervals for review for a maximum of five months. Blood samples will be taken at enrolment and at the end of the study. Participants will record whether they have symptoms of COVID-19 every day on a smart phone app and if they do get symptoms of COVID-19 they will be reviewed and have a combined nose/throat swab taken for future analysis.

Locally the study is being led by **XXX** supported by the research team. If you would like to take part please express your interest at: www.copcov.org/participant.html

Yours sincerely

Trust Medical Director