



Currently, there are no antiviral agents that have been demonstrated to have clinical activity against COVID-19. Several experimental therapies are being investigated for treatment and prophylaxis of COVID-19. Studies and clinical trials are ongoing both in Canada and across the world to explore the safety and efficacy of these agents. The foundation of treatment for all patients with COVID-19 remains supportive care, commensurate with degree of illness. The evidence for treatment of COVID-19 is changing rapidly. Updates will be provided accordingly should recommendations change.

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)

- There is no scientific evidence that establishes a link between ibuprofen (and other NSAIDs) and the worsening of COVID-19 symptoms.
- There are no current recommendations advising discontinuation of NSAIDs amongst patients who currently use these medications to treat their chronic diseases.

Antivirals and antibiotics

- No antivirals (including oseltamivir and ribavirin) have been demonstrated to have clinical activity against COVID-19. The cornerstone of management is supportive care. However, oseltamivir should be considered while seasonal influenza circulates and can be discontinued if influenza testing is negative.
- Antibiotics do not have activity against viruses and have no benefit in viral infections. However, secondary bacterial infection can occur, and empiric antibiotics should be considered if secondary bacterial infection is suspected or sepsis is identified.

Novel and Investigational Therapies

- Any treatment of COVID-19 using experimental medications and/or off-label indications of available drugs should ideally be done in the context of a clinical trial or via Health Canada Special
- Access Program (SAP). Currently, the World Health Organization does not recommend any specific anti-COVID-19 treatment.
- Consult Infectious Disease for consideration of any directed COVID-19 therapy and inclusion of patients in ongoing clinical protocols.

This memo was agreed upon jointly by the Division of Infectious Diseases in the Regina and Saskatoon integrated service areas.

Please direct any questions or concerns regarding patient treatment and/or management to the Infectious Disease physician on-call through switchboard and/or ACAL.