



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Health

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER
#63 Park Street, Port of Spain 100607

MEMORANDUM

From: Chief Medical Officer
To: President, Medical Board of Trinidad and Tobago
Date: 10th August, 2021
Subject: **World Health Organization advice on the use of Ivermectin to Treat COVID-19 Patients**

The subject matter at caption refers

The World Health Organization (WHO), recognized the urgent need for global collaboration to provide trustworthy and evolving COVID-19 guidance and informing on policy and practices worldwide.

The recommendations from the international Guideline Development Group (GDG) of content experts, clinicians, patients, ethicists and methodologists regarding COVID-19 treatment, has not recommended Ivermectin for COVID-19 treatment and prevention. The following Population Intervention Comparator Outcome (PICO) refers:

Table 1: Clinical Questions / PICO

OUTCOME (time frame)	SUMMARY
Mortality	The effect of Ivermectin on mortality is uncertain.
Mechanical Ventilation	The effect of Ivermectin on mechanical ventilation is uncertain
Viral Clearance (7days)	Ivermectin may increase or have no effect on viral clearance.
Hospital Admission (outpatient only)	The effect of Ivermectin on hospital admission is uncertain.
Severe Adverse Events	Ivermectin may increase the risk of serious adverse events leading to drug discontinuation.
Time to clinical improvement	Ivermectin may have little or no difference on time to clinical improvement



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Duration of hospitalization	The effect of Ivermectin on hospital length of stay is uncertain.
Time to viral clearance	We are uncertain whether Ivermectin improves or worsen time to viral clearance

The high degree of uncertainty as shown in the table above, in the most critical outcomes such as mortality, the need for mechanical ventilation and the evidence suggesting possible harm associated with treatment with increased adverse events, were noted by GDG. The WHO, after reviewing the report of the GDG, has not recommended Ivermectin to treat COVID-19 patients. They cited the lack of data from large, randomized trials confirming the drug's ineffectiveness to treat the disease.

In April 2021, the United States Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) stated that Ivermectin is not approved to treat COVID-19 nor has it been given Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). In Trinidad and Tobago, Ivermectin has also not been approved/registered for the treatment of COVID-19.

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) has further advised Regional Public Health Agencies that they are **not** in support of the use of Ivermectin in COVID-19 treatment, with the exception of appropriately designed, well regulated clinical trials for the treatment of COVID-19 which is in alignment with the WHO's recommendations only.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) has taken notice of reported cases by INTERPOL of fake/counterfeit Ivermectin trading globally, and the safety risk to persons taking these counterfeit Ivermectin.

Additionally, the MoH has been notified of alledged incidences where Pharmacists and Physicians are dispensing and prescribing Ivermectin to COVID-19 patients and customers. This practice is not in alignment with the WHO recommendations at this time nor has this drug been authorized by the the MoH for use in this regard.

We are seeking the assistance of your good office to bring this information to the membership under your purview so as to protect the health and safety of the population at large.

Anyone who has information regarding the alledged practices as indicated above, please report same immediately to Mr. Farz Khan, Chief Chemist and Director of Food and Drugs at telephone number 701-6866 or via email at farz.khan@health.gov.tt .



Dr. Roshan Parasram
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CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER
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c. Mr. Farz Khan, Director, CFDD



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