

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE**  
**Department of Health**  
**Senate Select Committee on COVID-19**  
**Australian Government's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic**  
**22 May 2020**

**PDR Number: IQ20-000247**

**Question Subject:** Safety of Hydroxychloroquine

**Question Type:** Written

**Senator:** Katy Gallagher

**Question:**

Is hydroxychloroquine a safe and effective treatment for COVID-19.

**Answer:**

There is currently very limited evidence to support the use of medications for the treatment of COVID-19. Several medications, including hydroxychloroquine, have been proposed as likely candidates to treat COVID-19.

Globally, a number of clinical trials are assessing the use of hydroxychloroquine in the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 patients.

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) advice of 7 April 2020 stated that off-label use of drugs like hydroxychloroquine is not recommended and these medicines should only be used as part of a clinical trial. [1]

<sup>1</sup>. [www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-coronavirus-covid-19-statements-on-7-april-2020](http://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-coronavirus-covid-19-statements-on-7-april-2020).