



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY
DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY
DEPUTY SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Anti-Malarial Medications

Malaria is a serious but preventable disease that, if not effectively controlled, can dramatically impact DoD's ability to execute its operational mission. Service members are frequently required to deploy into areas where malaria is endemic and it is critical that processes be in place to protect them, including mosquito control, use of personal protection measures and use of anti-malarial medications. It is important that our providers who prescribe anti-malarials understand the benefits and risks of using these drugs and that this information be clearly communicated.

Recent events have brought attention to the side-effect profiles of anti-malarial medications. While it is DoD policy to use only FDA-approved medications, questions have arisen regarding how we decide which anti-malarial is prescribed, how we document the prescriptions, and how we communicate the benefits and risks of using these drugs.

Please ensure that providers are aware that CDC currently recommends three anti-malarial medications (mefloquine, malarone, and doxycycline) for people traveling to chloroquine resistant *Plasmodium falciparum* malarious areas. Standard of care dictates that health care providers review the patient's medical history and travel profile and understand the side effects associated with each anti-malarial before prescribing the medication. As with all medications, the prescription should be accurately recorded electronically and in the patient's health record.

In addition to discussions by providers regarding anti-malarial medications as part of a doctor-patient relationship, please ensure that written health risk communication tools are developed and made available to service members and other DoD beneficiaries who travel to malarious areas.

Your assistance on this important medical issue is greatly appreciated.

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cc:
Joint Staff Surgeon