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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Pharmacy Licensees

FROM: Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy

DATE: September 17, 2021

SUBJECT: Ivermectin for COVID-19

On August 26, 2021, the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued an advisory (<https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2021/han00449.asp>) noting that during the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a rapid and significant increase in ivermectin dispensing by pharmacies as well as the use of veterinary formulations available over the counter but not intended for human use. An increase in adverse effects associated with ivermectin misuse and overdose are being reported, including severe gastrointestinal and neurological effects.

The CDC emphasizes that ivermectin is not authorized or approved by FDA for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19 and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has also determined that there are currently insufficient data to recommend ivermectin for the treatment of COVID-19.

The Board would like to remind pharmacists that they have a right to refuse to fill or refill any prescription if doing so would be contrary to their professional judgment. Moreover, a pharmacist should not fill or refill a prescription if, in the exercise of the pharmacist's professional judgement, there is a question as to its safety for the patient.