

1) Ethical issues involving outpatient treatment for COVID-19 in the United States

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5) Abstract:

As experience accrued in treating COVID-19 patients, physicians around the world discovered a higher success rate in treating **high-risk patients** (i.e., patients that exhibited early COVID-19 symptoms -- runny nose, fever, cough, loss of smell, and shortness of breath -- and met one or more of the following conditions: 65 years or older, high-risk comorbidities, and body-mass index  $\geq 30$ ; or under 65 with shortness of breath) as **outpatients** (within the first 5 days of symptom onset) with safe low-cost repurposed (off-label) drugs, rather than as inpatients with those same drugs or other available therapies.

The two most widely (world-wide) prescribed off-label drugs have been Hydroxychloroquine and Ivermectin. **Hydroxychloroquine** is an immunomodulatory drug taken by millions of people since it was first introduced in 1955 to treat malaria and autoimmune diseases such as lupus and inflammatory arthritis. **Ivermectin** is an anti-parasitic drug, also taken by millions of people since it was first introduced in 1981. This paper will evaluate the decisions made by national health organizations (e.g., the Food and Drug Administration, and National Institutes of Health), medical boards, state and federal agencies, pharmacists, hospitals, and others involved in medical decision-making in the US, as well as the World Health Organization, regarding the use of these drugs as a standard of care in **outpatient** settings, whether those decisions were **morally justified**, and how our medical practices can be improved going forward.

6) Key words: Medical ethics, Hydroxychloroquine, Ivermectin, outpatient treatment, randomized controlled experiments

7) Bio: Chrysoula Gitsoulis earned a BA in Philosophy, BS in Mathematics, and Minor in Classics, from Rutgers College, New Jersey, in 1991, and a PhD in Philosophy from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York in 2008. She currently teaches a variety of philosophy classes as an Adjunct Assistant Professor for the City and State Universities of New York. Her research interests focus mainly on Ancient Greek Philosophy, and Moral and Political Philosophy.