



Healthcare Worker Exposure
Response & Outcomes

HERO Research Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is HERO?

HERO is a research program – short for **H**ealthcare Worker Exposure **R**esponse & **O**utcomes (HERO) – that will unite healthcare workers across America to study and address the problems our healthcare heroes face in real time—and over time.

The program will initially have two parts – the HERO Registry and the HERO-HCQ Trial. In the future, the HERO Registry will help speed additional clinical studies that address unmet needs for healthcare workers.

What is the HERO Registry?

The HERO Registry (available at <https://heroesresearch.org/>) is a clinical research registry comprised of U.S. healthcare workers. The goals of the registry are to engage healthcare workers in a research community, understand their experiences and interests, and track critical health outcomes associated with caring for patients with COVID-19, such as stress and burnout. The HERO Registry will help speed additional clinical studies that address unmet needs for healthcare workers, such as an upcoming study of hydroxychloroquine, HERO-HCQ.

Who can participate in the HERO Registry?

To join, HERO Registry participants must be:

- A U.S. healthcare worker of any profession
- ≥ 18 years old

The HERO Registry is asking hundreds of thousands of healthcare professionals to participate, including nurses, therapists, physicians, emergency responders, food service workers, environmental services workers, interpreters, and transporters – anyone who works in a setting where people receive health care.

What is the HERO-HCQ Trial?

HERO-HCQ (available at <https://heroesresearch.org/our-research/>) is a randomized clinical trial of approximately 15,000 HERO Registry participants. It will evaluate whether hydroxychloroquine (brand name Plaquenil®) is effective in preventing COVID-19 infection in healthcare workers. The trial will randomize participants to either one month of hydroxychloroquine or one month of placebo and will examine whether hydroxychloroquine is effective in decreasing the rate of COVID-19 infection. In addition to the benefits and risks of using hydroxychloroquine, the study also will explore how well the drug can prevent healthcare workers from unintentionally spreading the virus to others.

Who can participate in the HERO-HCQ Trial?

To take part in the any HERO study, healthcare workers must first join the HERO Registry. To take part in the HERO-HCQ study of hydroxychloroquine, healthcare workers must be invited to participate by one of the approximately 40 U.S. sites in [PCORnet®](#), the National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network.

Is HERO-HCQ a trial for COVID-19 treatment?

No. The HERO-HCQ Trial will evaluate the effectiveness of an existing drug, hydroxychloroquine, in preventing COVID-19 infection in healthcare workers.

Who is behind the HERO research program?

The HERO research program is funded through a [Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute](#) Award (Contract Number: COVID-19-2020-001). The program is coordinated by the [Duke Clinical Research Institute](#) and leverages [PCORnet®](#), the National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network.

The HERO research program is made possible with contributions and services by other organizations, including:

- Almac Group, for drug distribution and randomization services
- Covance, for central lab coordination and testing
- Sandoz, the Novartis generics and biosimilars division, for the donated study medication and matching placebo
- Verily Life Sciences, for software and technology to support the participant portal and secure data platform