

## **COVID-19 treatments: Information for clinicians**

Information for patients including eligibility, how patients can access lateral flow tests and the local pathway is available at [COVID-19 medicines \(CMDU\) - Herts and West Essex ICS](#).

For the eligibility criteria under [NICE's final multi-technology appraisal \(MTA\) for COVID treatments](#) see appendix 1.

This information only applies for patients registered with a GP Practice in Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB. Patients out of area will need to find out arrangements that have been put in place for access to COVID-19 treatment from their ICB. Commissioned pathways are different in different areas.

### **Patients in primary care (including eligible patients in care homes)**

As clinicians encounter patients eligible for COVID-19 treatments (including if new diagnosis), they are advising / signposting them to information on eligibility, access to lateral flow tests, when to test and actions to take if they have a positive test – see link above to information for patients. Clinicians may wish to discuss the suitability for COVID-19 treatments with their patients and include this in any patient management plan.

- Eligible patients should keep lateral flow test kits at home so they can get tested quickly if they have any coronavirus symptoms. Patients can request tests from community pharmacies that are registered to provide this service across Hertfordshire and West Essex. Pharmacies offering free tests can be identified using [Find a pharmacy service](#).
- **Eligible patients reporting a positive test should be advised to call 111 urgently for an assessment for COVID-19 treatment as treatments need to be started within 5 days of onset of symptoms.** 111 will determine which treatment, if any, is suitable, and make any necessary arrangements for prescribing oral treatments for dispensing at a community pharmacy, or hospital referral if intravenous treatment is needed.
  - Paediatric patients who are eligible and COVID positive will be advised via 111 to contact their specialist teams for treatment and advice.
- Patients contacting clinicians with symptoms may require a clinical assessment prior to them calling 111 in case alternative intervention such as hospitalisation is required.

### **Patients in any in-patient setting**

- Providers will have appropriate internal arrangements in place for the assessment and treatment of eligible patient groups with nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (Paxlovid) and sotrovimab.

### **Patients in hospital**

- Hospital providers will have additional appropriate internal arrangements in place for the assessment and treatment of eligible patients with tocilizumab and remdesivir in line with the relevant NICE technology appraisals - <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta878> and <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta971>

## Appendix 1: Who is eligible

### Higher risk patient groups at increased risk for progression to severe COVID-19 eligible for oral nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (Paxlovid) and intravenous sotrovimab:

Determined by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) as being highest risk for progression to severe covid-19: see [section 5](#) of NICE TA for full criteria, in summary for adults:

- Down's syndrome, or another chromosomal condition that affects immune system
- certain types of solid cancer, or had treatment for certain types of cancer
- sickle cell disease
- certain conditions affecting blood, including some types of blood cancer and some patients that have had haematological stem cell transplant
- chronic kidney disease (CKD) stage 4 or 5, including people on dialysis
- severe liver disease
- organ transplant
- certain autoimmune or inflammatory conditions and treatments
- HIV or AIDS and have a weakened immune system
- condition affecting immune system
- condition affecting the brain or nervous system, such as multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, motor neurone disease, myasthenia gravis, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease or certain types of dementia
- certain lung conditions or treatments for lung conditions

### Expanded groups also eligible for oral nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (Paxlovid):

- people aged 85 years and over
- people with end-stage heart failure who have a long-term ventricular assistance device
- people on the organ transplant waiting list
- people aged 70 years and over, or who have a BMI of 35 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or more, diabetes or heart failure, and:
  - are resident in a care home, or
  - are already hospitalised.

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