



WA process for GPs accessing COVID-19 disease-modifying treatments

A number of COVID-19 disease modifying treatments are available in Western Australia through:

1. PBS Streamlined Authority prescription – [molnupiravir \(Lagevrio®\)](#) and [nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir \(Paxlovid®\)](#)

Contact with your local community pharmacies is strongly encouraged to pre-determine stock availability.

Stock may need to be ordered in for a patient, so please indicate urgency of supply based on date of symptom onset.

2. National Medical Stockpile (NMS supply distributed by the WA Department of Health (WA Health)).

This supply should only be requested when all community access channels for PBS prescription have been exhausted.

GPs can refer patients for approval via a WA Emergency COVID-19 Treatment Approval Form:

Oral – nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (Paxlovid®) and molnupiravir (Lagevrio®)

Parenteral – sotrovimab (Xevudy®) and remdesivir (Veklury®)

3. Pre-placed supplies directly from the Commonwealth (these supplies are not subject to WA Health approval):

- In Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisations (ACCHOs)
nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (Paxlovid®) and molnupiravir (Lagevrio®)
- Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF) – molnupiravir (Lagevrio®)

This document provides information for GPs/medical practitioners on how to access these COVID-19 disease-modifying treatments

- **Step 1 : Choice of COVID-19 disease modifying treatment (page 2)**
- **Step 2 : How to access treatment (page 3)**
- **Resource links (page 4)**
- **WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Catchment information (page 5)**

If uncertain which medication is most appropriate for your patient, to seek advice call and ask for the on call COVID Infectious Disease Physician for your catchment area. (Refer to page 5 for rural and remote catchment information).

- SMHS (08) 6152 222 (Fiona Stanley Hospital)
- EMHS (08) 9224 2244 (Royal Perth Hospital)
- NMHS (08) 6457 3333 (Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital)
- CAHS - for adolescents 12 to 18 years of age. (08) 6456 2222 (Perth Children's Hospital)
- Pregnant patients: refer patient to their obstetrician.



Step 1 : Choice of COVID-19 disease modifying treatment

Patient is COVID Positive with symptoms (PCR result or RAT) verified by a practitioner using their clinical judgement
Within 5 days of symptom onset and does not require oxygen*
*oral antivirals can be started after positive test in asymptomatic patients 70 years and over

Yes

Does the patient meet PBS criteria?
[Molnupiravir \(Lagevrio®\)](#)
[Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir \(Paxlovid®\)](#)

No

Yes

Check for any absolute or relative contraindications?
Refer to product information:
[Molnupiravir \(Lagevrio®\)](#)
[Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir \(Paxlovid®\)](#)

YES

No

First line Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (Paxlovid®) – oral antiviral	Second line Molnupiravir (Lagevrio®) – oral antiviral
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Checklist:

- Patient consent form
- Dose adjustment
- Patient counselling
- PBS prescription
- Supply from community pharmacy

ACCESS: PBS Streamlined Authority Prescription

GP to prescribe, patient to access from community pharmacy

No

NOT INDICATED

Age less than 12 years

Pregnant 1st trimester

Age 12 to 17 years AND weighing over 40kg

Pregnant 2nd or 3rd trimester

Age 18 years and over and considered at high risk for developing severe disease as per WA Health Guidelines

Seek specialist advice.
May be eligible for remdesivir or nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (Paxlovid®)

Seek specialist advice.
May be eligible for remdesivir

SEE PAGE 2 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Yes

ACCESS OPTION

GP to seek advice from Specialist Infectious Disease Physician

If patient has absolute or relative contraindications to both Paxlovid® and molnupiravir
OR
Patient does not meet oral antiviral PBS eligibility AND meets WA Health eligibility
([Paxlovid®](#) or [molnupiravir](#))

- GP referral for NMS Supply via WA HEALTH APPROVAL FORM
- Hospital doctor to prescribe if approved

Links

PBS Eligibility Criteria

[Paxlovid®](#)
[Molnupiravir](#)

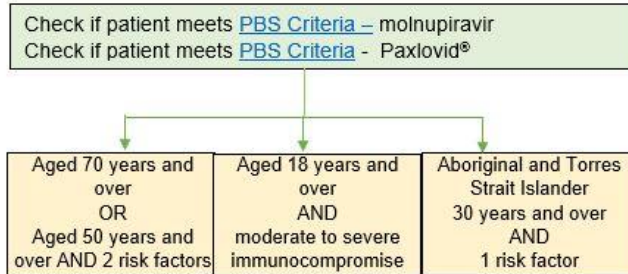
Product Information

[Paxlovid®](#)
[Molnupiravir](#)



Step 1 : Choice of COVID-19 disease modifying treatment

PBS Eligibility for Oral Antivirals from 11 July 2022



PBS Prescription
PBS Risk Factors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disability with multiple comorbidities and/or fragility - Neurological conditions (including stroke, dementia, and demyelinating conditions) - Respiratory compromise (incl. COPD, mod-severe asthma, bronchiectasis, or caused by neurological or musculoskeletal disease) - Heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies - Obesity (BMI >30) - Diabetes (Type 1 or 2 requiring medications) - Renal failure (eGFR<60mL/min) - Cirrhosis - In residential aged care - Reduced access to healthcare (Modified Monash Model ≥5)



If patient do not meet PBS eligibility criteria, GPs can refer their patients via a **WA Health Approval Form**.

This may be an access option for:

- Patients who have an absolute or relative contraindication(s) to oral antiviral treatments
- Patients in 2nd or 3rd trimester pregnancy

*The above is not an exhaustive list. The **WA Health Approval Form** will be assessed by an Infectious Diseases Physician and approvals will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Access Options for Oral Antivirals

Check for Eligibility, Exclusions and Contraindications	
First line Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (Paxlovid®) – oral antiviral If available and no absolute or relative contraindications (including: <18 years, pregnancy, lactation, severe kidney or liver impairment, drug interactions)	Second line Molnupiravir (Lagevrio®)– oral antiviral If available and no absolute or relative contraindications (including: < 18 years, pregnancy, lactation, alternative contraception during treatment <u>plus</u> - females (4 days post treatment) - males (3 months post treatment))
ACCESS OPTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If ACCHO pre-placed supply: GP to prescribe • PBS Streamlined Authority Prescription GP to prescribe • If patient does not meet PBS requirements, then GP referral for NMS Supply via WA HEALTH APPROVAL FORM Hospital doctor to prescribe if approved 	ACCESS OPTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If RACF or ACCHO pre-placed supply: GP to prescribe • PBS Streamlined Authority Prescription GP to prescribe • If patient does not meet PBS requirements, then seek advice from Specialist Infectious Disease Physician and if recommended GP referral for NMS Supply via WA HEALTH APPROVAL FORM Hospital doctor to prescribe if approved

Remdesivir – Further Information

Remdesivir (Velkury®) – seek specialist advice

- Intravenous administration x 3 doses
- If within 7 days of symptom onset,
- When oral antivirals are contraindicated and no absolute or relative contraindications e.g. renal failure, AND when logistically feasible)

Sotrovimab (Xevudy®) seek specialist advice
May be an option in severe renal failure when all other options are contraindicated

ACCESS OPTION

- GP to seek advice from Specialist Infectious Disease Physician
- GP referral for NMS Supply via **WA HEALTH APPROVAL FORM**
- Hospital doctor to prescribe if approved

Links

PBS Eligibility Criteria

[Paxlovid®](#)
[Molnupiravir](#)

Product Information

[Paxlovid®](#)
[Molnupiravir](#)



Step 2: How to access treatment

PBS Supply – [Paxlovid®](#) or [molnupiravir](#)

If the patient meets PBS Streamlined Authority requirements for Paxlovid® or molnupiravir, prescribe on a PBS prescription for a person nominated by the patient to collect from their community pharmacy.

- Community pharmacies may need to order this medication resulting in delayed treatment.
- Consider discussing with a local pharmacy to plan for on-hand availability.

ACCHO or RACF pre-placed supply

- **Molnupiravir**
- **Paxlovid (ACCHOs only)**

These medications are Schedule 4 and as such require a PBS prescription from a medical practitioner before they can be dispensed for or administered to a patient.

It is expected that stock management under these circumstances will be managed as per the [Authorisation to supply or administer a poison COVID-19 Treatment – National Medical Stockpile](#)

Patient follow-up

Following a prescription of treatment for COVID-19, GPs can use their clinical discretion on the timeframe to follow up on the patient. For example, a vulnerable patient may need follow up within 1-2 days of starting treatment.

WA Health National Medical Stockpile (NMS)

This supply should only be requested when all community access channels for PBS prescription for molnupiravir or Paxlovid® have been exhausted, the patient does not meet PBS eligibility or the medication is not listed on the PBS.

1. The referring GP must submit a [WA Emergency COVID-19 Treatment Approval Form](#) for specific medication required
2. After the WA Emergency COVID-19 Treatment Approval Form has been submitted, a receipt email will be sent to your email account.
3. Once the referral has been reviewed you will receive a notification as to the outcome of the referral (approve or decline).
4. If NMS COVID-19 treatment is approved, a hospital doctor will organise for the treatment to be prescribed for the patient.
 - **For Paxlovid or molnupiravir** – the hospital doctor will prescribe the medication and the hospital pharmacy department will dispense and organise for a support person to collect or for the medication to be couriered to the patient's residential address.
 - **For remdesivir or sotrovimab** – the patient will be contacted and directed to present at the nearest public hospital for administration.

Patient follow-up

Following a prescription of treatment for COVID-19, GPs can use their clinical discretion on the timeframe to follow up on the patient. For example, a vulnerable patient may need follow up within 1-2 days of starting treatment.

Links to the **WA Emergency COVID-19 Treatment Approval Forms** for each medicine which must be completed by a medical practitioner (prescriber number requested for each submission) and can be found on HealthPathways under [COVID-19 Assessment and Management](#).



Resources

The WA Department of Health [COVID-19 information for health professionals](#) page houses the links to the COVID-19 medicine resources (under Clinical Guidelines Tab). Please use the links below to access resources rather than saving downloaded attachments to ensure that the most current version is accessed at the time of need as these documents will be frequently updated as new information becomes available.

As new medicines become available through the NMS, resources will be developed and published on this website. An updated communique will be circulated when new resources become available.

COVID-19 Medicines

Governance documents

- [WA Health prioritisation of COVID-19 medications](#)
- [Access criteria for medicines to treat COVID-19 that are part of the National Medical Stockpile](#)

Molnupiravir

- [Molnupiravir \(Lagevrio®\) – what prescribers and pharmacists need to know](#)
- [Molnupiravir \(Lagevrio®\) WA Patient Consent Form](#)
- [Molnupiravir \(Lagevrio®\) Patient Information](#)

Paxlovid

- [Nirmatrelvir + Ritonavir \(Paxlovid®\) – what prescribers and pharmacists need to know](#)
- [Nirmatrelvir + Ritonavir \(Paxlovid®\) Patient Information](#)
- [Nirmatrelvir + Ritonavir \(Paxlovid®\) WA Patient Consent Form](#)

Sotrovimab

- [Model of Care for the use of sotrovimab in Western Australia](#)
- [WA Health guidelines for use of Sotrovimab for COVID-19](#)
- [Sotrovimab \(Xevudy®\) WA Patient Consent Form](#)
- [Sotrovimab \(Xevudy®\) Patient Information](#)

Remdesivir (Veklury®)

- [WA Department of Health guidelines for the use of remdesivir](#)
- [Remdesivir \(Veklury®\) Patient Information](#)
- [Remdesivir \(Veklury®\) WA Patient Consent Form](#)

WA Emergency COVID-19 Treatment Approval Forms are now active and will be required for all requests for all NMS COVID-19 medicines. Links to the forms which must be completed by a medical practitioner (prescriber number requested for each submission) can be found on:

[Patient information sheets](#) are also available on Healthy WA website:

Under Looking after yourself -
Prescription treatments for COVID-19.



COVID-19

WA Country Health Service (WACHS) Catchment information

