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 (Lagervrio®) 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 (Lagervrio®)
   - 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.

Does the patient meet PBS criteria?

- Molnupiravir (Lagevrio®)
- Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (Paxlovid®)

Check for any absolute or relative contraindications?

Refer to product information:

- Molnupiravir (Lagevrio®)
- Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (Paxlovid®)

First line

Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (Paxlovid®) – oral antiviral

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

Second line

Molnupiravir (Lagevrio®) – oral antiviral

Links

PBS Eligibility Criteria

Paxlovid®
Molnupiravir

Product Information

Paxlovid®
Molnupiravir

WA Health Eligibility

Paxlovid®
Molnupiravir
Step 1: Choice of COVID-19 disease modifying treatment

PBS Eligibility for Oral Antivirals from 11 July 2022

Access Options for Oral Antivirals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First line</th>
<th>Second line</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (Paxlovid®) — oral antiviral</td>
<td>Molnupiravir (Lagevrio®) — oral antiviral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If available and no absolute or relative contraindications</td>
<td>If available and no absolute or relative contraindications</td>
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<tr>
<td>(including: &lt;16 years, pregnancy, lactation, severe kidney or liver impairment, drug interactions)</td>
<td>(including: &lt;16 years, pregnancy, lactation, alternative contraception during treatment plus males 3 months post treatment)</td>
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ACCESS OPTIONS

- 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

- 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 (Veklury®) — 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 (Xovody®) 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
WA Health Eligibility
Paxlovid®
Molnupiravir
Remdesivir
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

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

For highly vulnerable patients it is recommended that the patient be followed up on day 5 of treatment to confirm the medication has been effective and that the patient has not deteriorated.

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
- WA Health guidelines for use of Molnupiravir (Lagevrio®) for COVID-19
- Molnupiravir (Lagevrio®) WA Patient Consent Form
- Molnupiravir (Lagevrio®) Patient Information

**Paxlovid**
- Nirmatrelvir + Ritonavir (Paxlovid®) – what prescribers and pharmacists need to know
- WA Health guidelines for use of Nirmatrelvir + Ritonavir
- 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

**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:


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

HealthPathways under COVID-19 Assessment and Management
WA Country Heath Service (WACHS) Catchment Information

South Link
Goldfields

Great Southern
Albany RHC
Bremer Bay NP
Dentonia H
Goowinup RHC
Humphries NP
Kalamunda H
Cooma H
Pilbaggana H
Racinna RHC
Tamworth NP

South West
Augusta H
Boodjidup H
Bridgetown H
Bunbury RHC
Busselton H
Collie H
Dondinin H
Emu Valley H
Harvey H
Margaret River H
Nannup H
Northcliffe NP
Pemberton H
Warren H

Goldfields
Coolgardie H
Esperance H
Kalgoorlie RHC
Kambalda H
Lewiston H
Levylines H
Narrikup H
Norseman H
Vasse NP

South Eastern
Goldinton H
Kendine H
Dunlop H
Kalgan H
Lake Grace H
Nambein H
Ringelin H
Walgan H
Wickepin H
Williams H

South Link
FSH
6152 2222

East Link
Pilbara

Kimberley
Bromel RC
Duarty H
Finlay Crossing H
Halls Creek H
Kununurra H
Wyndham H

Pilbara
Hacional RHC
Malshon Bar NP
Nagambie H
Nickel Bay H
Nulsen H
Port Hedland H
Pilbara H
Robeaudine H
Roebourne H
Wickham H

Western Wheatbelt
Beverley H
Gunadli HC
Dalyellup H
Goonanaring H
Northam H
Moa H
Wongan Hills H
Yankalilla H
York H

East Link
RPH
9224 2244

North Link
Coastal Wheatbelt

North Link
CRCU

Midwest
Carnarvon H
Coral Bay NP
Cud H
Dongara H
Exmouth H
Geraldton RHC
Kalbarri H
Menzies H
Morawa H
Mount Magnet H
Nutriana H
North Midlands H
Northampton H
Sandstone H
Walga NP

Coastal Wheatbelt
Jurien Bay H

Legend - H - Hospital | RC - Health Centre | RRC - Regional Regional Resource Centre | NP - Nursing Post | MHS - Memorial Health Service

COVID-19