**Arrangements for Supply of Covid Treatment**

NHS Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent offers treatment to patients with Covid-19 who are at the highest risk of becoming seriously ill if they get the infection. Treatments are available regardless of covid vaccination status.

**Eligibility for Covid treatment**

Individuals who would potentially be eligible for covid treatment were notified by the NHS back in June 2023. A copy of the letter can be found [here](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/letter-to-patients-important-information-about-new-treatments-for-coronavirus/).

Since June 2023 other patients may have been informed of their eligibility from their specialist or their GP. Patients may have a record of this information on their GP Clinical System or in writing.

The advice on eligibility for covid treatment is issued by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and is available [here](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta878/chapter/5-Supporting-information-on-risk-factors-for-progression-to-severe-COVID-19).

**Testing requirements for Covid for individuals who are potentially eligible for covid treatment**

If a patient gets Covid symptoms and they are potentially eligible for Covid treatment then they should have a Covid lateral flow test immediately, even if the symptoms are mild.

If the test is negative but they continue to have the symptoms, then they should take another test on each of the next two days (three tests in total over three days).

**Access to Covid treatment**

If the patient who is potentially eligible for Covid treatment and also has a positive covid test result then they should contact NHS 111 or their GP.

NHS 111 or a GP can refer patients to the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Covid Medicines Delivery Unit (CMDU) .

The CMDU is run by doctors who specialise in treating Covid and they will assess the patient usually within 24 to 48 hours of receiving the referral. If a CMDU doctor thinks that the patient would benefit from treatment then they will either provide a prescription for oral treatment or arrange for administration of an injectable treatment. In rare cases the CMDU may transfer the patient to a hospital team because the treatment that the patient needs is only available through the hospital.

The usual treatments available for people at the highest risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID-19 are:

* [nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (Paxlovid)](https://www.nhs.uk/medicines/paxlovid/)
* [sotrovimab (Xevudy)](https://www.nhs.uk/medicines/sotrovimab/)

Note first that the first line treatment is Paxlovid which is presented as a 5 day pack consisting of nirmatrelvir and ritonavir tablets. The recommended dosage is 300 mg nirmatrelvir (two 150 mg tablets) with 100 mg ritonavir (one 100 mg tablet) all taken together orally twice daily for 5 days.

**CMDU will issue an electronic prescription for Paxlovid and the patient will be able to get this dispensed at a pharmacy of their choice. Note that pharmacies can order Paxlovid via Alliance. This stock is supplied free of charge**. **There is also no single order surcharge for this product.**

If Paxlovid is contra-indicated then the CMDU may decide to use sotrovimab which is an intravenous drug. Patients will be contacted by the CMDU and arrangements made for administration of the intravenous infusion.

In exceptional circumstances CMDU may decide to use [molnupiravir (Lageviro)](https://www.nhs.uk/medicines/molnupiravir/) which is also an oral treatment: the recommended dose of molnupiravir is 800 mg (four 200 mg capsules) taken orally every 12 hours for 5 days.

**CMDU will issue an electronic prescription for Lageviro 200mg capsules and the patient will be able to get this dispensed at a pharmacy of their choice. Note that pharmacies can order Lageviro via Alliance. This stock is supplied free of charge. There is also no single order surcharge for this product.**

The usual Drug Tariff fees will be paid in relation to the dispensing of prescriptions for Paxlovid or Lageviro. Additionally, pharmacies will receive a nominal reimbursement amount of £2.50, which DHSC has set to recognise the purchase margin pharmacies would ordinarily retain on products they had purchased to fulfil a prescription.