



Supporting families
affected by primary
and secondary
immunodeficiency

Access to Covid-19 treatments in the community setting

updated 15th June 2022

This document describes access to anti-viral and neutralising monoclonal antibody therapies for people who are at highest risk of becoming seriously ill from Covid-19. This includes people affected by primary immunodeficiency and some secondary immunodeficiency conditions – see the eligibility list below. These treatments can help people manage their COVID-19 symptoms and reduce the risk of serious disease.

Access schemes are running in all four home nations with slight changes in approach but the basic criterion for accessing these treatments is the same.

People with immunodeficiency, who are eligible for COVID treatments (see list below) can now access the latest covid treatments after a positive lateral flow test, rather than having to wait for a PCR test. Act quickly if you test positive.

Free COVID-19 testing is no longer available to the general public, but if you are eligible for COVID treatments, you can still [order free lateral flow tests from gov.uk](#), whether or not you have symptoms. You will be applying for free lateral flow tests on the basis that you are eligible for COVID treatments, or because you have been asked to take a test by a doctor or healthcare professional - so click yes on any boxes or buttons that ask you to confirm this.

As a failsafe, if you have symptoms of COVID-19 and test negative you are advised to continue testing over the next two days.

Please note: You must submit the result of the lateral flow test via [ww.gov.uk](#) or 119 – please see the instruction leaflet in the lateral flow test box. It is important to enter your NHS number and postcode correctly so NHS can contact you about treatment.

The treatments being offered

From the 10 February 2022, across the UK, some people with immunodeficiency, aged 12 and above who test positive for COVID may be eligible for the following treatments.

- **Sotrovimab** – a neutralising monoclonal antibody. It gives a 79% relative risk reduction of hospitalisation or death.
- **Paxlovid** – an anti-viral. It gives 80-90% protection against hospitalisation with COVID.
- **Remdesivir** – an anti-viral. It gives an 87% reduction in relative risk of hospitalisation or death.
- **Molnupiravir** – an anti-viral. This drug has been shown to reduce the rate of hospitalisation or death by 30%.

Table 1, below, gives more details about these treatments.

Access to these therapies

These treatments will only be made available after clinical assessment by the Covid Medicines Delivery Unit (CDMU) and will not be prescribed via your GP or clinical team. The CDMU will decide on what treatment is best for you.

Please note that Paxlovid is not suitable for patients with certain health conditions or on some other medications and because of this you will be asked what medications you are taking.

Table 1. Summary of treatments that are being offered

Treatment	Type of treatment	Therapeutic window	Administration	Patient information
Sotrovimab (also known as Xevudy)	Neutralising monoclonal antibody	Within 5 days since symptom onset	Through a drip in your arm (infusion). Need to travel to a CMDU to have it administered intravenously.	Patient Information Leaflet for Xevudy
Paxlovid	Anti-viral	Within 7 days since symptom onset	Taken by mouth (orally) and can be taken at home.	Patient Information Leaflet for Paxlovid
Remdesivir	Anti-viral	Within 7 days since symptom onset	Intravenous infusion. Remdesivir is given over three separate days.	
Molnupiravir (also known as Lagevrio)	Anti-viral	Within 5 days since symptom onset	Taken by mouth (orally) and can be taken at home.	Patient Information Leaflet for Lagevrio

Who can access these treatments?

The UK Chief Medical Officers have agreed on a list of eligible conditions as follows:

- Primary immune deficiencies
- Patients with a haematologic malignancy (cancer of the blood)
- Patients with immune-mediated inflammatory disorders
- Patients with a solid cancer
- Solid organ transplant recipients
- Patients affected HIV/AIDS
- Down's syndrome and other genetic conditions
- Sickle cell disease
- Patients with a renal (kidney) disease
- Patients with liver disease
- Patients with rare neurological conditions.

Awareness of the access scheme

Immunodeficiency UK has been informed that the NHS has asked local commissioners to assure themselves that 119 & GP practices know how to provide information to patients and how to refer patients.

However, if the CMDU doesn't contact you after registering your positive lateral flow you can:

- 1) Call 119
- 2) Ask your clinical team to contact the CMDU.

Whoever you speak to, tell them you have an immunodeficiency, and that you're eligible for the new treatments.

Advice in the four nations

Please do look at the full advice on access to COVID-19 treatments in the four devolved nations. Here are the links:

[England](#)

[Northern Ireland](#)

[Scotland](#)

[Wales](#)

This information has been reviewed by Dr Matthew Buckland, Chair of Immunodeficiency UK's Medical Advisory Panel.