



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 – [nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir \(Paxlovid®\)](#) and [molnupiravir \(Lagevrio®\)](#)

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 should seek advice and discuss COVID-19 treatment eligibility with the on call Infectious Disease Physician for their catchment area using the contact information at the bottom of this page.

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®)

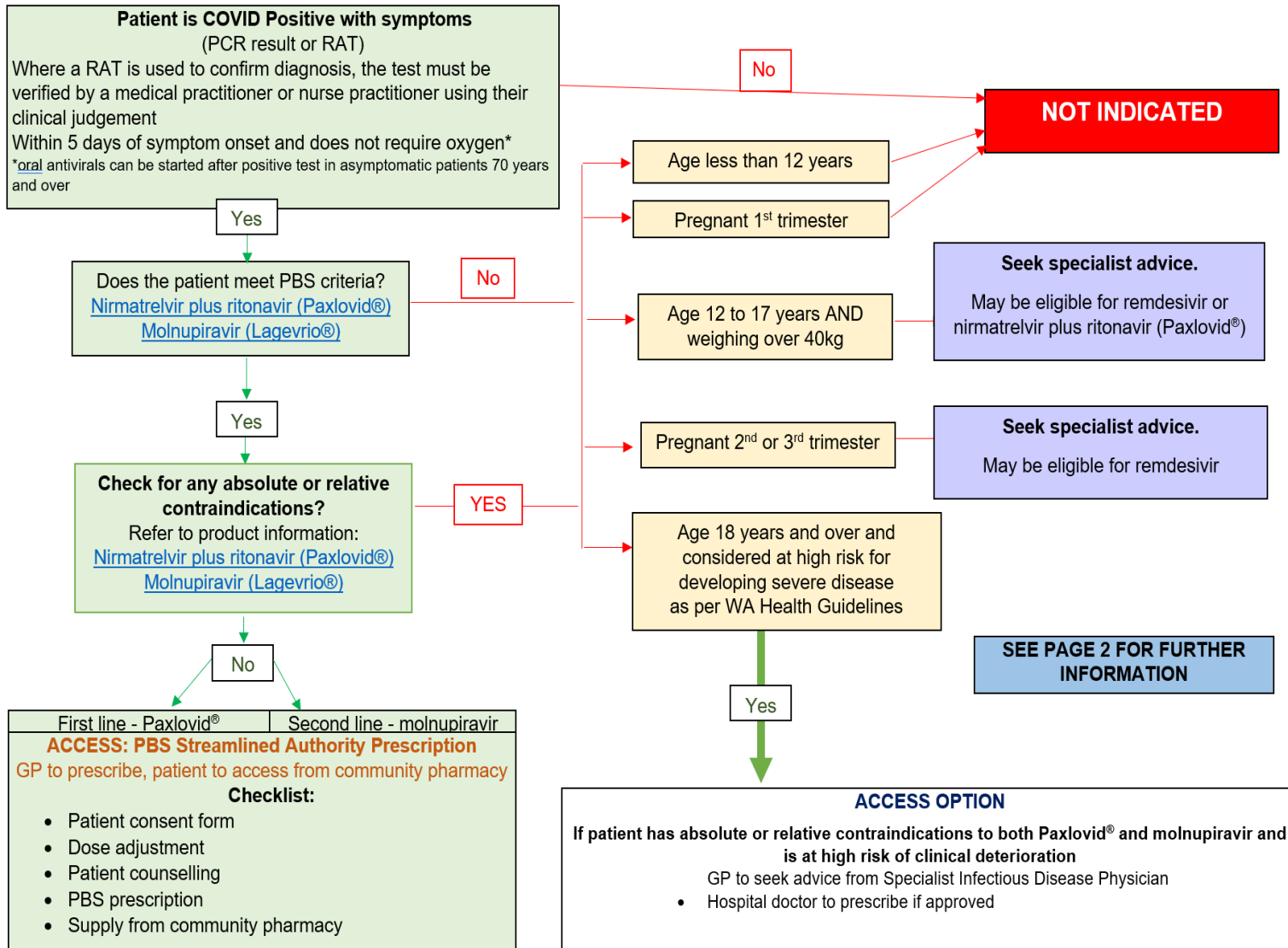
This document provides information for GPs/medical practitioners on how to access these COVID-19 disease-modifying treatments

- **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 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



Links

PBS Eligibility Criteria

[Paxlovid®](#)
[Molnupiravir](#)

Product Information

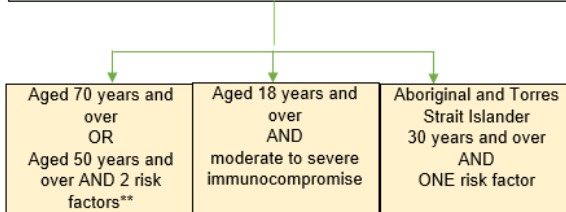
[Paxlovid®](#)
[Molnupiravir](#)



Step 1 : Choice of COVID-19 disease modifying treatment

PBS Eligibility for Oral Antivirals from 1 July 2023

Check if patient meets [PBS Criteria - Paxlovid®](#)
Check if patient meets [PBS Criteria - molnupiravir](#)



**From 1 July 2023, Paxlovid® eligibility has increased for patients aged 50 years and over AND have at least 1 risk factor present.

If accessing molnupiravir, eligibility criteria remain the same, where patients aged 50 years and over must have at least 2 risk factors.

PBS Prescription

PBS Risk Factors

- 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)



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 When Paxlovid® is contraindicated If 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 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 • Hospital doctor to prescribe if approved 	
The National Clinical Evidence Taskforce have suggested that in people who are highly vaccinated that molnupiravir may not make a difference to the risk of hospitalisation, as their risk of hospitalisation risk is already low. The COVID-19 Treatment Expert Advisory Group reviewed evidence independently in the WA context and recommend that molnupiravir may make a difference to the duration of a patient's symptoms and the patient's viral load and still has a place in therapy when Paxlovid® is contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable.	

Remdesivir – Further Information

Remdesivir (Velkury®) – seek specialist advice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When oral antivirals (Paxlovid® and molnupiravir) are contraindicated (2nd or 3rd trimester pregnant patients) • No absolute or relative contraindications AND when logistically feasible. • Intravenous administration x 3 doses • If <u>within 7 days</u> of symptom onset, prioritised for patients who are high risk (pregnant or severely immunocompromised).
ACCESS OPTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP to seek advice from Specialist Infectious Disease Physician • Hospital doctor to prescribe if approved

Links

PBS Eligibility Criteria

[Paxlovid®](#)

[Molnupiravir](#)

Product Information

[Paxlovid®](#)

[Molnupiravir](#)

If patient does not meet PBS eligibility criteria, GPs can refer their patients via consultation with the on call Infectious Disease Physician for your catchment area.

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



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

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

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

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.



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](#)

Remdesivir (Veklury®)

- [WA Department of Health guidelines for the use of remdesivir \(PDF 379KB\)](#)
- [Remdesivir \(Veklury®\) Patient Information \(PDF 147KB\)](#)
- [Remdesivir \(Veklury®\) WA Patient Consent Form \(PDF 306KB\)](#)



[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

