

**Andrew Evans**  
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**Chief Pharmaceutical Officer**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

To:  
Health Board Chief Pharmacists

cc.  
Health Board Pharmacy Procurement Leads  
All Wales Medicines Procurement Specialist Pharmacist  
AWTTC

By e-mail

Our Ref: AE/AH/COVID

28 January 2021

Dear Chief Pharmacist,

## **SUPPLY OF BARICITINIB FOR PATIENTS RECRUITED TO THE RECOVERY TRIAL**

### **Background**

Investigators for the Randomised Evaluation of Covid-19 therapy ([RECOVERY](#)) trial are seeking to test baricitinib as a potential treatment for Covid-19. Baricitinib, which is licensed in the UK for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and atopic dermatitis, will be compared to standard of care at a dose of either 2mg or 4mg daily for 10 days or until discharge. Recruitment is expected to commence imminently subject to the necessary trial approvals being granted.

### **Supply and reimbursement**

Trial sites will not be provided with trial stock, instead baricitinib should be supplied under the business as usual (BAU) mechanism with all sites ordering their own stock at the agreed Wales Patient Access Scheme (WPAS) price. Current supplies of baricitinib into the UK are good and the manufacturer Eli Lilly, has agreed to bring in additional stock if required. In addition, the UK allocation and distribution group will monitor availability to ensure supply is fair and equitable across the UK.

Health Boards can expect reimbursement for baricitinib supplied to patients participating in the RECOVERY trial. To ensure financial recovery for Health Boards in Wales, it is essential that supply of baricitinib for RECOVERY patients is identifiable on pharmacy

systems and distinguishable from supply for other indications. Health Boards and WAPSU will need to work together to ensure the required information is available, in much the same way as has occurred to support tocilizumab reporting.

If you have any queries please contact [anne.hinchliffe@gov.wales](mailto:anne.hinchliffe@gov.wales)

Yours faithfully,



**Andrew Evans**

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