

Public Health Link

From the Chief Medical Officer for Wales

Distribution:	As Appendix 1
From:	Sir Frank Atherton, Chief Medical Officer
Date:	25 February 2022
Reference:	CEM/CMO/2022/09
Category:	Immediate (cascade within 6 hours)
Title:	Antivirals and neutralising monoclonal antibodies (nMABs) in the treatment of hospitalised patients with COVID-19
What is this about:	Further to the interim commissioning policy issued on 28 January, the policy has been updated to reflect the withdrawal of the casirivimab and imdevimab (Ronapreve) neutralising monoclonal antibody (nMAB) combination as a treatment option for patients hospitalised due to symptoms of COVID-19.
Why has it been sent:	For your awareness and to aid signposting patients appropriately.

Antivirals and neutralising monoclonal antibodies in the treatment of COVID-19 in hospitalised patients

Summary

This policy has been updated to reflect the withdrawal of the casirivimab and imdevimab (Ronapreve) neutralising monoclonal antibody (nMAB) combination as a treatment option for patients hospitalised due to symptoms of COVID-19. This withdrawal is in the context of the dominance in the UK population of the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2, against which the casirivimab and imdevimab nMAB combination is ineffective.

Patients in this cohort may instead be considered for entry into the RECOVERY trial, which is studying sotrovimab versus standard of care. Genotyping of all inpatients continues to be encouraged for surveillance purposes, but is no longer needed to confirm eligibility for any of the current COVID treatment options.

The published policy now focusses solely on patients with hospital onset COVID infection (additional criteria apply), for whom nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (Paxlovid) is now available as a first-line treatment option. The intravenous antiviral remdesivir (Veklury) and the monoclonal antibody sotrovimab (Xevudy) remain available as alternative treatment options in this cohort.

Enquiries

Enquiries from hospitals in Wales should in the first instance be directed to the health board's Chief Pharmacist who will escalate issues to the Pharmacy and Prescribing Team at Welsh Government if required. Enquiries to the Welsh Government should be directed to: COVID-19.Pharmacy.Prescribing@gov.wales

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Frank Atherton', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Sir Frank Atherton
Chief Medical Officer

To: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership to forward to:

All General Practitioners - please ensure this message is seen by all practice nurses and non-principals working in your practice and retain a copy in your 'locum information pack'.

All Community Pharmacists

Deputising services

HB Chief Pharmacists

HB Prescribing Advisers

Independent/Private clinics and Hospitals and Hospices throughout Wales

To: Health Boards and NHS Trusts:

Chief Executives

Medical Directors

Nurse Directors

Directors of Public Health

Hospital Principals and Chief Pharmacists

Onward distribution to:

Immunisation Leads,

Infectious Disease Departments

Acute medical units

Microbiologists

To: Public Health Wales:

Chief Executive

Director of Public Health Services

Consultants in Communicable Disease Control

Microbiologists

Consultant Epidemiologists

Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme

Cc: NHS Direct Wales

British Medical Association

Royal College of GPs

Royal College of Nursing

Royal College of Midwives

Royal Pharmaceutical Society

Community Pharmacy Wales

Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Wales