

Public Health Link

From the Chief Medical Officer for Wales

Distribution:	As Appendix 1
From:	Sir Frank Atherton, Chief Medical Officer
Date:	4 January 2022
Reference:	CEM/CMO/2022/01
Category:	Immediate (cascade within 6 hours)
Title:	Neutralising monoclonal antibodies (nMABs) or antivirals for non-hospitalised patients with COVID-19
What is this about:	Further to the interim commissioning policy issued on 16 December, the policy has been updated as outlined below.
Why has it been sent:	For your awareness and to aid signposting patients appropriately.

Neutralising monoclonal antibodies (nMABs) or antivirals for non-hospitalised patients with COVID-19

Further to the clinical policy issued on 16 December (CEM/CMO/2021/37), the policy has been updated to remind clinicians that treatments should only be offered where the patient is not already showing signs of clinical improvement and to provide further clarity on haematological disease (appendix 1) and the chemotherapy agents (appendix 2) relevant to determining patient eligibility.

From the week commencing 20th December, the monoclonal antibody (nMAB) sotrovimab (Xevudy) has been available for use as a first line treatment for non-hospitalised patients who are PCR positive and aged 12 and above who are considered at highest risk of progression to severe disease, hospital admission or death.

This alternative nMAB option is important, particularly in areas where Omicron has become the prevalent variant, because it is understood that the efficacy of the combination monoclonal antibody casirivimab and imdevimab (Ronapreve), included in the original policy, is likely to be materially compromised against the increasingly prevalent Omicron variant. Eligible patients may receive antiviral therapy if an nMAB is contraindicated.

Yours sincerely,

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

Dr Frank Atherton
Chief Medical Officer

Appendix 1

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