

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for the work you and your colleagues have continued to undertake to support access to COVID treatments for highest risk individuals. We are writing to provide some important updates in this area.

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Summary

- Triage and Prescribing of COVID treatments will change on 21st August 2023.
- Local Care Direct is commissioned to offer a community triage and prescribing service for high-risk adult patients in South Yorkshire
- Patients under 16 will be treated by Sheffield Children’s Hospital via their paediatrician.
- Patients over 16 will contact either NHS111 or their registered GP Practice to access the service. NHS 111 and GP practices will be able to refer patients into Local Care Direct.
- Patients that do not meet eligibility for first line oral treatment will be referred into CMD Units at their local Acute Trust by Local Care Direct.
- A record of clinical intervention will be sent to the patient’s registered GP once the triage and treatment process has been completed.

The role of acute trusts in new local pathways

Local Care Direct, the service provider, will triage and prescribe first line treatment for patients. Patients in need of second-line treatment will be referred to Trust CMDUs through email. We have asked them to incorporate essential patient information such as;

- Demographics (Name, DOB, NHS number, contact telephone number)
- Registered GP
- Date of onset of symptoms
- Acute and repeat medications
- Allergies and sensitivities
- Date of +ve test and type (LFT / PCR)
- Condition qualifying them for treatment
- Reason they can't have Paxlovid

If patients are referred for 2nd to 4th line treatment and during your clinical assessment believe they could receive Paxlovid, we ask that Trusts prescribe Paxlovid within the outpatient facility. It could be supplied from your stocks, or an FP10 issued that could be

taken to one of the commissioned pharmacies in SY which can be found here. We ask Trusts to feedback via CMDU@lcdwestyorks.nhs.uk the reasoning such that LCD may be able to review their triage. The frequency of these instances can be reported separately via contract management leads to allow SY ICB to understand the picture and provide further feedback to LCD.

The role of acute trust outpatient specialists in new local pathways

Eligible outpatients could be referred directly without going via the GP practice or NHS 111 to Local Care Direct for triage and treatment by emailing CMDU@lcdwestyorks.nhs.uk containing:

- Name
- DOB
- NHS number
- Address
- Tel number (best contact)
- When the patient tested positive
- Symptoms

The role of Mental Health Trusts in new local pathways

Eligible patients should be referred to Local Care Direct for triage and treatment by emailing CMDU@lcdwestyorks.nhs.uk containing:

- Name
- DOB
- NHS number
- Address
- Tel number (best contact)
- When the patient tested positive
- Symptoms

Children and Young Adults

As oral COVID medications aren't licenced for under 18s, treatment should be initiated by secondary care. For patients aged under 18 still under paediatric care, the patient/carer should contact their paediatric specialist for onward referral to Sheffield Children's Hospital. All other patients (including those aged 16 and 17 without a paediatric specialist) should be referred to Local Care Direct by their GP practice or NHS 111.

Access to lateral flow tests

Eligible patients will continue to have free access to lateral flow tests via [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) or 119. They can also now use tests purchased from a pharmacy or shop. They will not be able to report the result of privately-bought tests but this will not affect access to an assessment for treatment.

From 1 October 2023, the way patients access tests may change. Patients will be able to check www.nhs.uk/CovidTreatments for more information closer to the time.

Further information

SY ICB will also be making information available for patients and clinicians on its websites.

For more detailed information about eligibility, please refer to the [NICE MTA](#).

Thank you for your ongoing work in supporting these patients to help ensure they can benefit from COVID-19 treatments.

If you require any further information on these arrangements, please contact syicb.communications@nhs.net and your enquiry will be routed appropriately.

Yours faithfully,

Alex Molyneux
NHS SY ICB Chief Pharmacy Officer