Covid Medicines Delivery Unit (CMDU): Treatment options

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Treatment Eligibility

Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Treatments are commissioned for symptomatic non-hospitalised adult and paediatric patients with Covid-19 in the following circumstances:

1. Onset of Covid-19 symptoms has been within the last 5 days (for Paxlovid, molnupiravir and sotrovimab) or 7 days (for remdesivir).
2. SARS-COV-19 infection is confirmed by either a lateral flow or PCR (registered via gov.uk or NHS 119)
3. Is a member of the highest risk group (as defined by the Department of Health and Social Care commissioned independent advisory group). This group of patients includes the following:
    - Solid organ cancers
    - Haematological diseases and recipients of haematological stem cell transplant (HSCT)
    - Renal conditions
    - Liver conditions
    - Immune-mediated inflammatory disease
    - Primary and acquired immunodeficiency
4. Is not hospitalised for Covid-19 and is not requiring new supplemental oxygen specifically for the management of Covid-19 symptoms.

Antivirals: Paxlovid®

First line – adults only

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Pros:

- Nimatrelvir/Ritonavir combination – given orally 3 tabs BD for 5 days
- Relative risk reduction of hospitalisation – 88%

Cons:

- Not recommended in pregnancy; breastfeeding should be discontinued during treatment and for 7 days after the last dose.
- Contraindicated in severe hepatic and renal dysfunction
- Multiple significant drug-drug interactions

Antivirals: Remdesivir

Second line – for adults and children over 40kg

Pros:

- Intravenous administration
- Treatment within 7 days of symptoms onset
- May be used in pregnancy where benefits outweigh risks
- No significant interactions
- Relative risk reduction of hospitalisation – 87%

Cons:

- Intravenous administration – patient needs to attend PIU for daily infusions
- No specific advice on discontinuation of breastfeeding
- Not recommended if ALT ≥5xULN or eGFR <30mls/min
- Some supply issues

Antivirals: Molnupiravir

Third line – adults only

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Pros:

- Given orally - 4 caps BD for 5 days
- May be used in severe liver and renal disease
- No significant drug-drug interactions

Cons:

- Not recommended in pregnancy; breastfeeding should be discontinued during treatment and for 4 days after last dose
- Relative risk reduction of hospitalisation – 30%

nMAB: Sotrovimab

Fourth line by exception: adults and children over 12 yrs and over 40kg

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Pros:

- IV infusion – single dose
- May be used in pregnancy although there is no safety data
- No dose adjustment in liver or renal impairment
- No significant drug-drug interactions

Cons:

- Requires MDT approval
- No specific advice on discontinuation of breastfeeding

Useful resources

- CAS-ViewAlert (mhra.gov.uk)
  - Interim Clinical Commissioning Policy for non-hospitalised patients
  - Clinical guide for treatment options
  - Treatment summary
- Covid medicines interactions checker Liverpool COVID-19 Interactions (covid19-druginteractions.org)
- Further information on eligibility criteria Defining the highest-risk clinical subgroups upon community infection with SARS-CoV-2 when considering the use of neutralising monoclonal antibodies (nMABs) and antiviral drugs: independent advisory group report - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)