Antiviral treatments for mild COVID-19 disease

Including people prescribed clozapine

Clozapine and COVID-19

- As per the manufacturer information, **Paxlovid**® use in a people taking **clozapine** is ***contraindicated***.
- Not only can COVID-19 disease derange clozapine levels, but so to can Paxlovid® (via the ritonavir component). Thus, the risk of serious toxicity is too high for Paxlovid® and clozapine to be concurrently prescribed.
- People on clozapine should **only** receive either IV remdesivir or oral Lagevrio®.
- People taking clozapine and with multiple comorbidities are considered high risk of developing severe COVID-19 and should be referred for review for eligibility of IV remdesivir **before** considering Lagevrio®.
- A Safety Learning System (SLS) report is required to be made for anyone taking clozapine who is COVID-19 positive.
- For people in shared care, Clozapine Coordinators are to be contacted regarding the COVID-19 positive person. The Clozapine Coordinator will complete the SLS.
- For information regarding additional monitoring required for COVID-19 positive people prescribed clozapine, please refer to the SA Health guideline.

General antiviral medication

- There are 2 oral antiviral medicines currently available on the PBS for mild COVID-19 disease:
  - Paxlovid® (nirmatrelvir 150mg/ritonavir 100mg) – 1st line
  - Lagevrio® (molnupiravir 200mg) – 2nd line
- As per PBS criteria, both Paxlovid® and Lagevrio® need to be initiated within 5 days of a person testing positive or experiencing symptoms, whichever is earlier.
- Remember to consider contra-indications, drug interactions, and adherence before prescribing treatments.

People who qualify for antivirals on the PBS

- There are 4 PBS Streamline Authority codes a person can qualify under, you can choose the one that best fits the person:
  - 13112 – Patient is **70 years of age or older** (irrespective of risk factors)
  - 13110 – Patient is **immunocompromised** (this includes people with disability and multiple comorbidities or frailty)
  - 13107 – Patient is **>30 years old, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander**, and has 2 or more risk factors
  - 13108 – Patient is **>50 years old, and has 2 or more risk factors** (residential care or disability care counts as 1 risk factor)
- Please note, Paxlovid® is **contraindicated** in people with severe renal impairment, severe liver impairment and people taking certain psychotropic medicines, including clozapine, quetiapine, diazepam, clonazepam, and some anti-convulsants.
- Always check for drug interactions with Paxlovid® via the University of Liverpool drug interaction checker, IDSA resource for clinicians, or other drug-interaction checking resources.

Antiviral treatments for mild COVID-19 disease

Including people prescribed clozapine

People who do NOT qualify for antivirals on the PBS, or cannot have Paxlovid®

- If the person does not meet PBS criteria, OR, are at high risk for developing severe COVID disease but **cannot** take Paxlovid® (i.e. due to drug-drug interactions); please refer for IV remdesivir via the SA Health COVID-19 mild illness treatment and referrals website.
    - The referral form is also available here
    - The individual drug monographs (for prescriber information) and patient information sheets (Paxlovid®, remdesivir, Lagevrio®) can also be found on this website.
- If a person does not wish to receive IV remdesivir, or, there is limited access to an infusion site, then Lagevrio® (molnupiravir) can often be prescribed instead, noting this may be considered a less efficacious treatment option.

Prescribing assistance

- If you need any assistance with prescribing antiviral medicines, please contact the COVID High Risk Hub Clinician Support Line on 1800 313 090 (clinicians only)

For more information

SA Pharmacy Medicines Information Service
Telephone: 08 8161 7555
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID-19

Government of South Australia
SA Health

© Department for Health and Wellbeing, Government of South Australia. All rights reserved.

Last updated 01 September 2022