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IMPORTANT: All NHS Community Pharmacies Coventry & Warwickshire ICS

Dear Pharmacy Colleagues

Reference: Supply of COVID-19 Treatment Antiviral Medicines through C&W Community Pharmacies from Monday 10th July 2023

This letter is to provide details of the management of patients in Coventry and Warwickshire (C&W) who are eligible to receive and are prescribed COVID-19 treatment antivirals from Monday 10th July. The C&W pathway has been discussed with Community Pharmacy Arden and signed off by the C&W ICS Covid Medicines Delivery Unit (CMDU) Sub-group.

It is important that all community pharmacies and their regular staff including locum pharmacists have access to this information including the supporting information and links accompanying this letter.


Background

Historically, Paxlovid has only been available through a hospital-based supply. **Changes in national arrangements mean that certain C&W community pharmacies will now clinically check, dispense and provide counselling as part of usual processes, referencing the supporting information in the pathway details provided.**

Additional safeguards are built into the process so that community pharmacies:

- will receive advanced notice of prescriptions by telephone;
- provide confirmation that they can fulfil the prescription before it is placed into the EPS workflow of the pharmacy by the CMDU prescribers, with a note to this effect on the EPS prescription message;
- can request copies of the CMDU completed referral form if they require it;
- collection by an asymptomatic person or delivery by the pharmacy should be discussed and agreed between all parties before dispensing, but there is no expectation of delivery by the pharmacy; and,
- have access to the direct telephone numbers of the CMDU assessment unit.

Chief Executive – Philip Johns
Chair – Danielle Oum



A copy of the C&W ICB Pathway for Accessing Treatments for Non-Hospitalised Adults with Mild COVID-19 is included with this letter. To ensure access to the most up to date version, the pathway should always be accessed electronically (via [GP Gateway](#)).

Further supporting information is available via [GP Gateway](#) and E-Learning materials for COVID19 Treatments are available [here](#) (*Registration on NHS Learning Hub is required*).

C & W Drug Formulary Position of Paxlovid

The drug formulary position of Paxlovid remains as a Red Drug restricted to prescribing in secondary care and CMDU only. If you receive a prescription for Paxlovid (or molnupiravir, a non-formulary drug not supported in the current pathway) outside of these arrangements then the advice is to contact the prescriber and recommend discussion with the relevant CMDU (or other local service for out of area patients) before dispensing. Local services can be identified via the [Directory of Services](#).

As these treatments are time critical (within 5 days of symptom onset), discussion with Arden Community Pharmacy has concluded that whilst all pharmacies can potentially stock and dispense Paxlovid, there is a need to facilitate prompt access. Therefore 16 pharmacies will be utilised in the first instance (Please see Appendix 2). These pharmacies have been requested to hold a minimum of 2 packs of Paxlovid in stock to enable treatment commencement within the 5 day window. Other pharmacies are requested to signpost patients accordingly should they attend a non-participating pharmacy erroneously.

Should any pharmacy receive a prescription other than through the Respiratory@Home service via Coventry & Rugby GP Alliance, for Paxlovid, the pharmacy should contact the GP Alliance Hub on **contact the LPC for phone number**

Please ensure that all your support staff are aware of these arrangements, and you have access to the most up to date information (using the links above).

Yours sincerely,

Altaz Dhanani

**Deputy Director of Medicines Optimisation
NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board
Cc Community Pharmacy Arden**

Appendix 1: C&W ICB Pathway for Accessing Treatments for Non-Hospitalised Adults with Mild COVID-19, sent as a separate file to this letter.

Appendix 2: Paxlovid Community Pharmacy list July 2023

Accountable Officer – Phillip Johns
Chair – Danielle Oum