

## 5 Steps to Prescribe/Order COVID-19 Treatment

Updated 12.08.2022; Trey Dobson

### Step 1. Individual has a positive antigen or PCR test

### Step 2. Treatment is indicated for patients at higher risk of developing severe outcomes of COVID-19

- Ages 50 and above
- Age remains the strongest risk factor for severe COVID-19 outcomes, with risk of severe outcomes increasing markedly with increasing age
- Age 18+ years and  $\geq 40$  kg with certain underlying medical conditions (molnupiravir)
- Age 12+ years and  $\geq 40$  kg with certain underlying medical conditions (Paxlovid)
- Age 28+ days and  $\geq 3$  kg with certain underlying medical conditions (remdesivir)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-care/underlyingconditions.html>

### Step 3. Choose therapy

- Earlier initiation of treatment leads to best outcomes and should begin as soon as reasonably possible, preferably on the day of positive test
- **First choice: Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir)**, if within 5 days from symptom onset or positive test, whichever came first
  - Check drug interactions using <https://www.covid19-druginteractions.org/checker>
  - This step is fairly straight forward and should not cause trepidation
  - Inform the patient of any medications that need to be held during treatment, e.g., a statin
  - Document eGFR
    - eGFR  $\geq 60$  to  $< 90$  mL/min – no dosage adjustment needed, 300 mg nirmatrelvir and 100 mg ritonavir twice daily for 5 days
    - eGFR  $\geq 30$  to  $< 60$  mL/min – the dosage of PAXLOVID is adjusted to 150 mg nirmatrelvir and 100 mg ritonavir twice daily for 5 days
    - eGFR  $< 30$  – Paxlovid not recommended
- **Second choice: Veklury (remdesivir)**, if within 7 days from symptom onset or positive test, whichever came first
  - Remdesivir not recommended eGFR  $< 30$  or ALT/AST  $> 5$  times upper limit of normal
  - Note that remdesivir requires 3 consecutive days of 60 minute IV infusion
    - Access is limited due to the low number of centers performing outpatient remdesivir infusion
    - Recurrent trips to an infusion center is a significant barrier to many patients
- **Third choice: Lagevrio (molnupiravir)** (oral)

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### **Step 4. Locate treatment**

- Use the following websites to locate suppliers
  - <https://covid-19-therapeutics-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com/>
  - <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/health-care-professionals/covid-19-therapeutics-information-health-care-professionals>
  - <https://aspr.hhs.gov/TestToTreat/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Step 5. Write prescription or send order**

- For Paxlovid, many pharmacies will ask for eGFR to be included
- For molnupiravir, some pharmacies may ask for negative pregnancy
- For remdesivir, contact infusion center for ordering instructions

[For ordering infusion at SVMC, see section “Outpatient Therapeutics → Infusion” at <https://river.svhealthcare.org/cms/covid19/infolinks>]