

Dear Colleague

Neutralising monoclonal antibodies or antivirals (nMABs) for non-hospitalised patients with COVID-19

Derbyshire now has an approved nMAB pathway operating via DHU Healthcare Covid Medicine Delivery Unit (CMDU). The details below and in the attached briefing and pathway documents should now be utilised by all primary care clinicians in the treatment of eligible patients.

nMABs are synthetic monoclonal antibodies that bind to the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, preventing subsequent entry of the virus into the host cell and its replication. This effectively 'neutralises' the virus particle.

Recent evidence suggests that nMABs and oral antivirals significantly improve clinical outcomes in unvaccinated non-hospitalised patients with COVID-19 who are at high risk of progression to severe disease and/or death.

Attached are the policy statement issued by the Department of Health and Social Care, along with the local pathway document. Details about the pathway are also being added to Derbyshire Pathfinder and it should be noted that the pathway is not yet available on ERS.

Eligibility and exclusion criteria

Patients must meet all the eligibility criteria and none of the exclusion criteria. Pre-hospitalised patients are eligible for treatment if:

- SARS-CoV-2 infection is confirmed by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing within the last 5 days
AND
- Onset of symptoms of COVID-19 within the last 5 days
AND
- A member of a 'highest' risk group (as defined in Appendix 1 of attached policy brief).

The eligible patients should initially be considered for treatment with an nMAB (sotrovimab). Where an nMAB is contraindicated or the administration of an nMAB is not possible, patients may be treated with a five-day course of molnupiravir if the onset of symptoms is in the last 5 days.

Patients who have received an nMAB within a post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) or pre exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) trial (such as the PROTECT-V trial) who meet the eligibility criteria of this policy can still receive treatment with an nMAB

Patients are not eligible for nMAB treatment in the community if they meet any of the following:

- Require hospitalisation for COVID-19
- New supplemental oxygen requirement specifically for the management of COVID-19 symptoms
- Children weighing less than 40kg
- Children aged under 12 years

General Practice are asked to note:

- You will not need to prescribe or dispense nMABs or antivirals (DHU or the acute provider will do this).
- However, your practice might need to refer highest risk patients to the local COVID-19 Medicine Delivery Unit (CMDU) so they can assess eligibility and arrange treatment – see attached pathway.
- Patients discharged from CMDU after receiving nMABs will be offered and encouraged to enrol on the Covid Oxygen Pulse Oximetry Monitoring Service.
- Please ensure patients treatment is correctly recorded on their records with the SNOMED codes provided in discharge letters.

Information for patients

A letter and SMS have been issued to patients and are attached to this email.

Kind regards,

Derbyshire Medicines Management Team