

Caring for Covid-19 positive patients in Primary Care

COVID-19 MONITORING AND ANTI-VIRAL PRESCRIBING

Issued 27/04/2022

Barwon South West Public Health Unit (BSWPHU) has recently moved to a new state-wide COVID monitoring system called *Covid Monitor*. Some system changes will impact primary care:

- Following notification via a positive PCR or an uploaded positive RAT test, patients will be sent a text message that needs a response for allocation of a care pathway:
 - Low with daily text messages and GP care if required
 - Low with no text messages and GP care if required
 - Medium with daily text messages and remote patient monitoring (RPM)
 - Medium with phone call and RPM if patient unable to navigate technology (not necessarily daily phone calls)
 - High then patient advised to attend ED or is already an inpatient.
- All initial clinical assessments for RPM are now undertaken centrally by Health Direct clinicians, but can be undertaken by Barwon Health if there is any urgency.
- BSWPHU is no longer accepting new referrals for monitoring or care escalation using the CRAMR form. If a patient requires care escalation then:
 - call 000 if severe symptoms
 - the GP can call BSWPHU Covid GP hotline 4215 4433
 - the patient can escalate by responding to the text message with the concerning symptoms
- If there is no uploaded RAT, then BSWPHU is not able to respond to a request for monitoring or care escalation. Please ask the patient to upload the RAT test using the [DoH online form](#) or contact the Coronavirus Hotline 1800 675 398
- Length of monitoring by BSWPHU:
 - Low care -up to 7 days of text messages
 - Medium care -up to 14 days of text messages with monitoring for a standard 7 days (or 10 days if required)

SUPPORT FOR PRESCRIBING COVID ANTIVIRALS:

- Lagevrio® (Molnupiravir) is an oral antiviral therapy that needs to be prescribed within five days of symptom onset; thus prompt assessment and prescription is required. It can be accessed via the PBS (streamlined authority) through various community pharmacies.
- Of note, there are other oral antiviral agents available that currently require the assistance of the Infectious Diseases team at Barwon Health to prescribe. If your patient is complex or severely immunocompromised, please contact the RPM/Infectious Diseases registrar for advice.

	Dose	Contraindications	Side effects
Lagevrio®	800mg (4x 200mg capsules) PO BD for 5/7	Pregnancy Age <18 years Hypersensitivity to active ingredients	Nausea Diarrhoea Dizziness

- See [Health Pathways](#) for criteria and precautions for prescribing Lageviro and Paxlovid (to be updated once it become available on PBS)
- Other resources:
 - [Commonwealth Department of Health Webinar \(Specifically Bridgett Barber 20 min mark and Dr Chris Moy 50min mark\)](#)
 - [National Evidence Taskforce](#)
- If further support is required please phone:
 - 0481 456 965 RPM/ID registrar (diverted to ID registrar after hours)
 - 4215 4433 GP Covid Hotline

CONTACTS:

- RPM registrar T: 0481 456 965 (diverted to ID registrar after hours)
- GP Covid Hotline T: 4215 4433 (0830 to 1700 7 days per week)
- GP Liaison T: 4215 8845
- Email: COVIDPathways@barwonhealth.org.au for antiviral referrals after discussion with RPM registrar

*Document prepared by Barwon Health GP Liaison Unit
27/04/2022*