

updated 16th August 2023

Dear Colleagues

Following the delegation of commissioning responsibility for COVID antiviral treatments from NHS England to the Integrated Care Boards as of 27th June 2023. We have compiled information for the services across the North West, to ensure that all patients are supported to access services, and treated promptly where appropriate.

The three NW Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) are aware of border issues across healthcare and may require need to access healthcare differently. The three ICSs are currently continuing with a more centralised process, with pathways for triage and supply of treatment.

Whilst there are specific pathways in place within each ICS, it should be noted that for Paxlovid®, patient assessment and prescribing can be undertaken by GP practices, and community pharmacies can dispense as per usual NHS processes.

Contact details and transitional arrangements for COVID treatment:

Greater Manchester (inc East Cheshire)	mft.gm.cmdu@nhs.net	Manchester University Foundation Trust for triage and dispensing
Cheshire and Merseyside	mcn-tr.cmdu@nhs.net 0151 296 7222	MerseyCare for triage Secondary care organisations dispensing medication
Lancashire and South Cumbria	fcms.c19virtualward@nhs.net	FCMS for triage Specifically commissioned community pharmacies for dispensing

Patients can be referred via 111 in all the three North West ICSs, via an EMIS referral form in L&SC, via the email addresses in Greater Manchester and Cheshire and Merseyside and via the phone number for Cheshire and Merseyside. This last option can also be used by Cheshire and Merseyside patients (excluding East Cheshire) to self-refer.

Please be aware as we move to the summer season and beyond, it should be noted that we have many visitors to the countless attractions and holiday destinations around the North West who may develop COVID. If this is the case, patients should be treated by the service nearest to them at the time (rather than their home ICB), so as not to delay treatment, if needed. Anyone who may be the first healthcare contact of a patient, whether resident or visiting, should be aware of who may be eligible for treatment and how to refer if appropriate.

The NHS England national team and the North West Regional team are continuing to keep an overview and are available for support where needed. We continue to keep a cohesive regional approach to ensure equitable access to treatment for our patients.

Please contact your respective ICB via the contacts above if you have queries about the pathways in your area. We have included various resources below in the useful links section, including COVID treatments e-

learning and an interaction checker. This will assist you in supporting patients to safely access appropriate pathways and treatments.

Thank you for the ongoing support and patient care you provide.

Yours sincerely

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Useful links:

[NHS COVID treatments elearning programme](#)

[Liverpool COVID-19 Interaction checker](#)

[Treatments for COVID-19 - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

[NHS England » Letter to patients: Important information about treatments for Covid](#)

[Defining the highest risk clinical subgroups \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng191>

[Overview treating COVID-19 | Guidance | NICE](#)

[\(nice.org.uk\)](http://nice.org.uk)