April 2024

Dear Patient

In March 2024 the National Institute for Health and Social Care excellence (NICE) updated the guidance on the use of oral anti-viral medications to treat Covid-19. The new guidance recommends that all people aged 85 years and over testing positive for Covid-19 should be considered for oral antiviral medication. The medication should be started within 5 days of testing positive with Covid 19.

You are eligible to receive free NHS lateral flow device tests. You can obtain a box of 5 lateral flow device tests from a participating pharmacy.

You can find which pharmacies offer this service by asking at your local pharmacy or using the NHS services website <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/>

If you suspect you have Covid-19 you should test yourself with a lateral flow device test to confirm if you have Covid -19.

If you test positive for Covid-19 you can be assessed for consideration of treatment with oral antiviral medication. This medication is currently not prescribed by your GP practice, there is a dedicated service that assess people for the suitability for oral anti-viral medication and will help you decide if it is right for you. If your symptoms are mild to moderate or improving the clinical team may recommend that you don’t take oral antivirals, they are also not clinically suitable for everybody due to other medication you may be taking.

If you test positive for Covid-19 and would like to speak to the clinical team about oral antiviral medication you can refer directly into the service by: -

E-mail to [blmkicb.cmdu@nhs.net](mailto:blmkicb.cmdu@nhs.net)

Telephone to 07740401261 – please leave a message.

You need to include the following information in your message so a member of the team can call you back, you will be contacted during normal working hours (8am to 8pm) by telephone, and within 24 hours of contacting the service.

* Name
* Date of Birth
* NHS Number
* Telephone number you wish to be contacted on

If you feel unwell you can also contact your NHS 111 or GP practice for advice, however they will not assess you for oral antiviral medication. If your symptoms worsen and you are concerned, you should call NHS111 or your GP practice for advice.