

Updated Guidance on treating COVID 19

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) issued guidance at the end of March 23. <https://app.magicapp.org/#/guideline/L4Qb5n/section/LAJvRn>

World Health Organisation(WHO) have also updated their guidance in January 23 <https://app.magicapp.org/#/guideline/nBkO1E/rec/LA69PM>

It has become clear from the WHO guidance that Sotrovimab **should not** be used for treatment of patients at increased progression to severe COVID 19. WHO have cited evidence from in vitro data demonstrating that neutralisation of currently circulating variants and sub-variants is diminished with Sotrovimab. There is therefore likely to be an absence of clinical effectiveness of Sotrovimab and it should not be used. This information has not been included in the NICE guidance. NHS Grampian Infectious Diseases clinicians stopped using Sotrovimab in November 22 on the basis of this evidence.

A. Current evidence for treatment of COVID 19 in patients who do not require supplemental oxygen but who are at increased risk of progression to severe COVID 19 are as follows –

1st line - Nirmatrelvir/Ritonavir

2nd Line – Molnupiravir (note prescribing limitations)

3rd line – Remdesivir, 3 days treatment

The evidence for Molnupiravir and Remdesivir is under review with NICE and WHO have given their recommendation as “Weak or Conditional in favour”.

B. Current evidence for treatment of COVID 19 in hospitalised patients requiring oxygen support is as follows –

Corticosteroids

IL6 receptor blockers (Tocilizumab)

Baracitinib

While WHO has cited strong evidence for all three, NICE have given only a Conditional Recommendation to Baracitinib.

Remdesivir is under discussion with both agencies with treatment recommendations for 5 days. Procurement arrangements for Remdesivir have also become very expensive making it not very economical to use.

Updated Categories for treatment of patients at increased risk of COVID 19 – see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-risk-patients-eligible-for-covid-19-treatments-independent-advisory-group-report-march-2023>