

Ref: FOI/00473/CMICB  
18 July 2023

Dear,

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000  
Post COVID-19 Exposure Treatment Options**

Thank you for your information request indicated in bold below, which has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB). I am able to provide you with the following information and responses.

Please note from 01 July 2022, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were disestablished, and their statutory functions and responsibilities inherited by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

**Your Request:**

**The NICE guidelines prescribe that there are two post COVID-19 exposure treatment options that ICB's must make available to those who are at higher risk from COVID-19 from 27 June 2023:**

- A. - Paxlovid; and**
- B. - Sotrovimab, an infusion, for those for whom Paxlovid is contraindicated (normally those on immunosuppressant therapies).**

**I am writing to understand what plans and processes have been established by you as my ICB to provide these treatment options. Where the approach to treatment differs between options A and B above in any answer, please detail the differences.**

**1) Who should an eligible patient contact in the first instance if they test positive for COVID-19?**

**Our Response:**

1) From 27 June 2023, if a patient tests positive for Covid-19 they should first contact the local Cheshire & Merseyside COVID-19 Medicine Delivery Unit (CMDU) service, provided by Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust. Further information can be found in the enclosed '*CMDU Patient Letter*'.

**Your Request:**

**2) How should this contact take place? eg. Has the ICB set up an app or dedicated phone line to do this?**

**Our Response:**

2) As detailed in the enclosed 'CMDU Patient Letter', patients as well as health care professionals can contact the CMDU service on the dedicated phone number: 0151 296 72222.

**Your Request:**

**3) What is the process if a patient tests positive outside normal working hours (evenings, weekends, bank holidays) or when travelling elsewhere in the UK?**

**4) If the answer is that they should contact their hospital team, how will that work if their care is outside the Cheshire and Merseyside area?**

**Our Response:**

3 - 4) The Cheshire & Merseyside CMDU service is open seven days a week between 9.00am and 5.00pm (including bank holidays). Outside of these hours, patients can contact NHS 111 and be referred by NHS 111 to the CMDU, who will process the referral the following day when the service reopens. Time to treatment is within 24 hours of initial contact for those who are eligible and within five days of symptom onset.

**Your Request:**

**5) As recognised by NICE, some patients who are immunosuppressed may only be able to have the intravenous treatment Sotrovimab. What are the ICB's processes to make this quickly available to them?**

**Our Response:**

5) There are intravenous (IV) treatment hubs located across Cheshire & Merseyside to provide treatment to eligible patients and also minimise travel time. Additionally, some of the IV treatment hubs can also provide a domiciliary service to patients as and where necessary.

**Your Request:**

**6) Do you have a webpage with more information on this topic? If so please provide details**

**Our Response:**

6) The latest national guidelines on COVID-19 community-based treatments can be found on the NHS England website via the following link: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/community-treatments/>

Your Request:

**7) Does your ICB have a contact point assigned for patients regarding COVID-19 treatments?**

Our Response:

7) Yes, as previously advised patients can contact the dedicated CMDU service telephone number on 0151 296 72222.

Your Request:

**8) Please provide copies of any final process documents, flow diagrams, related papers or plans etc that have been prepared to support this process.**

Our Response:

8) Please find enclosed the below listed documents held by NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB in relation to COVID-19 community-based treatments and the CMDU in operation:

- *CMDU Patient Letter*
- *CMDU Clinician Letter*
- *CMDU Pathway Process Map*
- *nMABs and Antiviral Referral Form – Adult*

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response or do not feel that your request has been answered as you would expect, please contact us to discuss.

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform you that, where you are not satisfied with the response to your request for information, a formal complaints and internal review process is available.

This can be formally requested by emailing [foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk) and must be done within a reasonable time period (3 calendar months) from the date this response was issued.

Where you remain dissatisfied with our review under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted our complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at;

*The Information Commissioner's Office*  
*Wycliffe House*  
*Water Lane*  
*Wilmslow*  
*Cheshire*  
*SK9 5AF*  
[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Should you need any further clarification or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us quoting the above FOI reference.