

To: [Clinician]

Dear

## **Important information about treatments for patients testing positive for COVID-19 who are deemed at highest risk of getting seriously ill**

A letter has recently been circulated by NHSE to your patients who are part of the group of patients who are deemed at highest risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19. The letter explains who patients should contact should they test positive for COVID-19. This includes contacting their GP practice, Hospital specialist or NHS111 to access specific COVID-19 treatments.

A copy of this letter can be found on the link below:-

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

The reason for this letter to patients is because on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023, the way in which COVID-19 positive test results are recorded will change and the onus is now on the patient to contact their GP practice, Hospital Specialist, NHS111 or the local CMDU for access to specific COVID-19 treatments. The patient will need to carry out an LFT test and this must be positive. **Patients will be able to obtain lateral flow tests for free until at least September 2023. Test kits are available via the following link [Order COVID-19 rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) or by calling 119 if eligible and making a requesting.**

Patients have always been able to be referred by GP practices, hospital consultants and NHS111 into the CMDU and this process will not change. We will still require a referral form which I have attached, and this should be emailed to [mcn-tr.cmdu@nhs.net](mailto:mcn-tr.cmdu@nhs.net)

However, from 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023, patients are now also able to self-refer to the COVID-19 Medicines Delivery Unit (CMDU) by calling:-

**0151 296 7222 - Lines are open from 9-5, 7 days a week**

The local COVID-19 Medicine Delivery Unit (CMDU) provider for Cheshire and Merseyside is Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust.

Before the patient contacts us, they should ensure that they have carried out a positive Lateral Flow Test (LFT) result within the last 5 days and onset of their COVID-19 symptoms are within 5 days. If their symptoms started more than 5 days ago then the CMDU cannot provide COVID-19 treatment and they will be informed to contact their GP practice or NHS 111 for other treatment options.

When contacting us patients will be asked to provide us the following information to register them on to our system:

Full name

NHS Number

Date of Birth

Address including post code

Their GP practice

Date of most recent positive lateral flow test (LFT)

Date when their symptoms started

Contact details (a telephone number is essential)

**Please remember, the CMDU service can only provide COVID-19 treatment for the highest risk patients who could become seriously ill if contracting COVID-19 and these high-risk conditions are contained within the web-link below.**

[www.nhs.uk/CoronavirusTreatments](http://www.nhs.uk/CoronavirusTreatments)

If you require any further information please contact us via telephone on 0151 296 7222 or via email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

**Cheshire and Merseyside CMDU**

## Patient Information Leaflet

### Important information about treatments for COVID-19

You have been identified by your healthcare team as being at increased risk if you become unwell with COVID19. This means that you might be suitable for anti-viral / antibody treatments if you get COVID19. When given early to people with particular risk factors these medicines can help to reduce the severity of the illness.

The NHS has a COVID Medicine Service to provide access to those treatments in community. You will need to have free test kits for your personal use if you feel ill and be concerned about COVID. **Test kits are available via the following link [Order COVID-19 rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-tests) or by calling 119 if eligible and making a requesting.**

If you test positive for COVID19, and are uncertain about what to do you should immediately contact 111, your GP, or for some people, your hospital specialist if you have been advised to do so. You will be able to discuss whether they need to refer you for an assessment for treatment.

You also have the option for self-referral and can access COVID-19 treatments in your local area. Your local COVID-19 Medicine Delivery Unit (CMDU) provider for Cheshire and Merseyside is Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust. If you test positive and would like to refer yourself for an assessment for COVID-19 treatment, you can do so by contacting us via telephone.

You can refer to the COVID-19 Medicine Delivery Unit (CMDU) at Mersey Care using the phone number below:

**0151 296 7222 - Lines are open from 9-5, 7 days a week**

Before you contact us, please make sure that you have a positive Lateral Flow Test (LFT) result within the last 5 days and your COVID-19 symptoms started within 5 days. If your symptoms started more than 5 days ago your local CMDU cannot provide you COVID-19 treatment as community treatment is effective when given early. In this instance, please contact NHS 111 your GP practice or hospital consultant for other treatment options.

When contacting us you will be asked to provide us the following information to get you registered on to our system:

Full name

NHS Number

Date of Birth

Address including post code

Your GP practice

Date of most recent positive lateral flow test (LFT)

Date when your symptoms started

Contact details (a telephone number is essential)

**Please remember, this service can only provide COVID-19 treatment if you are well enough to stay in your usual home. If you are very unwell or would like to seek help for any other illness or concern, please contact NHS 111, GP Practice or in an emergency, 999.**

More information for COVID-19 treatment is available at:

[www.nhs.uk/CoronavirusTreatments](http://www.nhs.uk/CoronavirusTreatments)

For information on how the Trust uses your information, please see the Patient Privacy Notice on the website at <https://www.merseycare.nhs.uk/about-us/privacy>