

Ref: FOI/00490/CMICB
28 July 2023

Dear,

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000
Covid-19 Anti-viral Treatments to Immunosuppressed Patients**

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:

Please may I request guidance related to the below NHS email about Covid treatments, locally, following the switch from Antiviral treatments being available through the Covid Medicine Delivery Units (CMDUs) to them being available from 27th June via Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). In other areas, patients eligible for Covid antivirals have been written to directly by their ICBs.

I seek to understand what the local plan is to provide anti viral treatments to immunosuppressed patients when testing positive for Covid.

I would be grateful to know,

1) has the ICB written to local GP practices to share the below change in procedure and GPs' new responsibilities;

Our Response:

1) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB has commissioned Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust to provide the Covid Medicine Delivery Unit (CMDU) service locally across Cheshire and Merseyside. Please find enclosed '*CMDU Clinician Letter*' template sent from the Cheshire & Merseyside CMDU Service to clinicians detailing the changes from 27 June 2023.

Your Request:

2) does my local practice Wrenbury Surgery, Wrenbury, Nantwich have a nominated covid-19 coordinator,

Our Response:

2) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB does not hold information on whether Wrenbury Surgery has a specific nominated Covid-19 coordinator. You may wish to redirect your request for this information to Wrenbury Surgery.

Your Request:

3) what arrangements are in place locally - does any CMDU Pathway still operate in Nantwich?

Our Response:

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

Your Request:

4) who will be responsible locally for timely patient assessment and triage,

Our Response:

4) Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust are commissioned to provide the Cheshire & Merseyside CMDU Service and are responsible for providing timely patient assessment and triage of patients referred to the service.

Your Request:

5) is there a difference between point of access during GP opening hours and out of hours.

Our Response:

5) 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 Cheshire & Merseyside 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.

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 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*

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