

# Antiviral treatments for mild COVID-19 disease

## Including people prescribed clozapine

### Clozapine and COVID-19

- > As per the manufacturer information, **Paxlovid®** use in a people taking **clozapine** is **contraindicated**.
- > Not only can COVID-19 disease derange clozapine levels, but so to can Paxlovid® (via the ritonavir component). Thus, the risk of serious toxicity is too high for Paxlovid® and clozapine to be concurrently prescribed.
- > People on clozapine should **only** receive either IV remdesivir or oral Lagevrio®.
- > People taking clozapine and with multiple comorbidities are considered high risk of developing severe COVID-19 and should be referred for review for eligibility of IV remdesivir **before** considering Lagevrio®.
- > A Safety Learning System (SLS) report is required to be made for anyone taking clozapine who is COVID-19 positive.
- > For people in shared care, Clozapine Coordinators are to be contacted regarding the COVID-19 positive person. The Clozapine Coordinator will complete the SLS.
- > For information regarding additional monitoring required for COVID-19 positive people prescribed clozapine, please refer to the [SA Health guideline](#).

### General antiviral medication

- > There are 2 oral antiviral medicines currently available on the PBS for mild COVID-19 disease:
  - o Paxlovid® (nirmatrelvir 150mg/ritonavir 100mg) – 1<sup>st</sup> line
  - o Lagevrio® (molnupiravir 200mg) – 2<sup>nd</sup> line
- > As per PBS criteria, both [Paxlovid®](#) and [Lagevrio®](#) need to be initiated within 5 days of a person testing positive or experiencing symptoms, whichever is earlier.
- > Remember to consider contra-indications, drug interactions, and adherence before prescribing treatments.

### People who qualify for antivirals on the PBS

- > There are 4 [PBS](#) Streamline Authority codes a person can qualify under, you can choose the one that best fits the person:
  - o 13112 – Patient is **70 years of age or older** (irrespective of risk factors)
  - o 13110 – Patient is **immunocompromised** (this includes people with disability and multiple comorbidities or frailty)
  - o 13107 – Patient is **>30 years old, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander**, and has 2 or more risk factors
  - o 13108 – Patient is **>50 years old, and has 2 or more risk factors** (residential care or disability care counts as 1 risk factor)
- > Please note, Paxlovid® is **contraindicated** in people with severe renal impairment, severe liver impairment and people taking certain psychotropic medicines, including clozapine, quetiapine, diazepam, clonazepam, and some anti-convulsants.
- > Always check for drug interactions with Paxlovid® via the [University of Liverpool drug interaction checker](#), [IDSA resource for clinicians](#), or other drug-interaction checking resources.

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### People who do NOT qualify for antivirals on the PBS, or cannot have Paxlovid®

- > If the person does not meet PBS criteria, OR, are at high risk for developing severe COVID disease but **cannot** take Paxlovid® (i.e. due to drug-drug interactions); please refer for IV remdesivir via the [SA Health COVID-19 mild illness treatment and referrals website](#).
  - o The referral form is also available [here](#)
  - o The individual drug monographs (for prescriber information) and patient information sheets ([Paxlovid®](#), [remdesivir](#), [Lagevrio®](#)) can also be found on this website.
- > If a person does not wish to receive IV remdesivir, or, there is limited access to an infusion site, then Lagevrio® (molnupiravir) can often be prescribed instead, noting this may be considered a less efficacious treatment option.

### Prescribing assistance

- > If you need any assistance with prescribing antiviral medicines, please contact the COVID High Risk Hub Clinician Support Line on 1800 313 090 (clinicians only)

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### For more information

SA Pharmacy Medicines Information Service  
Telephone: 08 8161 7555  
[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID-19](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID-19)

