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Tuesday, 10 October 2023

*Via email*

To:

- General practice colleagues, via ICB local communication colleagues please
- ICB Heads of Medicines Management
- Provider chief pharmacists, via WYAAT communication colleagues please
- Primary care leads

Cc:

- COVID-19 medicines delivery project group
- West Yorkshire Clinical and Care Leadership Forum members
- West Yorkshire Pharmacy Lead
- Local Medical Committees
- West Yorkshire Primary and Community Care Programme Senior Responsible / Lead.

Dear colleagues

### **Accessing the COVID Medicines Distribution Unit (CMDU)**

In June 2023, I wrote to colleagues to detail changes to access arrangements for the CMDUs.

As you may recall the CMDUs were established to offer neutralising monoclonal antibody (nMBA) treatments or antiviral medications to people who may be of greater risk of complications, hospitalisation and death should they contract COVID 19.

Following several queries, I wanted to confirm the current arrangements.

- **People who require this service will be expected to keep lateral flow tests at home in case they develop symptoms of COVID.** People requiring this service are currently able to order further tests from <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> In addition to this these tests continue to be available to buy from a retail pharmacies and supermarkets

- **People requiring this service who develop COVID symptoms will need to self-test or arrange for someone else to perform a lateral flow test on them.** If they test positive they will need to record the positive test where possible at <https://gov.uk/report-covid19-result> or by calling 119, using their NHS number. Please note this only applies to tests ordered from the Government website, there is no need to record this information for shop bought tests
- **On testing positive contact should be made with NHS111** who will refer them into the CMDU
- **After assessment by CMDU colleagues, if a prescription and dispensing of treatment is required this will continue to be undertaken by LCD clinicians and current providers.**

In addition to this Local Care Direct can also receive direct email referrals from clinicians where necessary. Referrals should be sent to [cmdu@lcdwestyorks.nhs.uk](mailto:cmdu@lcdwestyorks.nhs.uk)

### **Eligible patients**

I understand that all people who may be at greater risk of complications from COVID who are listed on the national dataset were sent information about the new access arrangements.

As time moves on there may be more people who may benefit from this service. It may therefore be prudent for care providers to send a personalised version of the letter shared with this communication to each affected person (**please see appendix 1**). It may be that more than one care provider sends this letter to the same person but the benefit of this is felt to outweigh any risk.

If you have any queries or comments regarding the above, please do let me know.

Kind regards,



**David Smith**  
**NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, Chief Pharmacist**

## Appendix 1: Letter template for patients [please use your own letter template]

Your NHS Number: [NHS number]

Dear [Name]

### Important information about treatments for COVID

Your medical records currently show that you may have a health condition which means that treatments might be suitable for you if you get COVID.

These treatments can reduce the chance of you getting seriously ill from COVID and need to be given quickly after you start to have symptoms.

### What do I need to do?

There are three things you should do.

#### 1. You should keep lateral flow tests at home

You should keep lateral flow tests at home but only use them if you get symptoms. If you do not have any tests, you can order them free of charge from

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> or by calling 199.

You can also now use tests purchased from a pharmacy or shop.

#### 2. You should take a test if you have COVID symptoms

If you have COVID symptoms you should take a test immediately, even if your symptoms are mild. If you test is negative, but you continue to have symptoms, you should take another test on each of the next two days (three tests in total over three days).

You should report your test result where possible at <https://gov.uk/report-covid19-result> or by calling 119, using your NHS number (at the top of this letter) and postcode. This will ensure your test result is visible to the NHS, to support referral and assessment.

You will not be able to report the result of a test purchased from a pharmacy or shop but this will not affect your access to an assessment for treatment.

#### 3. Contact the NHS as soon as possible if you test positive

If you test positive you should contact **NHS 111** or hospital specialist (if you have one) as soon as possible so they can consider referring, you for an assessment for treatment.

More information is available at: [www.nhs.uk/CovidTreatments](http://www.nhs.uk/CovidTreatments)

You can find out more information on any of the above at [www.nhs.uk/CovidTreatments](http://www.nhs.uk/CovidTreatments)  
Alternatively, please contact us on XXX

Yours sincerely

Add name

More information on how the NHS has used your information is available at:

[www.digital/nhs.uk/coronavirus/treatments/transparency-notice](http://www.digital/nhs.uk/coronavirus/treatments/transparency-notice)