



# Clinician alert #83 – all clinicians

Effective from 18 March 2022

## New information

- Molnupiravir (Lagevrio®) is now listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and can be prescribed by General Practitioners for adults with mild to moderate COVID-19 who have a high risk for developing severe disease.
- As per the [molnupiravir PBS listing](#), adults (18 years and over) are eligible for treatment with molnupiravir if the patient meets the following criteria:
  - Has received a positive PCR or RAT result (RAT must be verified by medical practitioner); AND
  - Has at least one sign or symptom attributable to mild to moderate COVID-19 (i.e. do not require oxygen) and do not require hospitalization at the time of prescribing; AND
  - Is within five (5) days of symptom onset; AND
  - Is aged 65 years or over (Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander 50 years or over) and at high risk OR 'moderately or severely' immunocompromised.
- Please refer to PBS listing for details on 'high risk' and 'severely immunocompromised'.

## Prescribing Molnupiravir

- Within the patient population for which molnupiravir is recommended for use, decisions about the appropriateness of treatment with molnupiravir should be based on the patient's individual risk of severe disease, on the basis of age and multiple risk factors, and COVID-19 vaccination status.
- The [Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee \(PBAC\)](#) are satisfied that, for some patients, molnupiravir is likely to be more efficacious than the current standard of care in reducing the risk of developing severe disease leading to hospital admission.
- Treatment must be commenced within five days of symptom onset.
- Molnupiravir is not for use in pregnancy (Category D) and effective contraception must be advised for women of childbearing potential (during treatment and for at least four days after treatment).
- Breastfeeding is not recommended during treatment and for four (4) days after the last dose of molnupiravir.
- Men who are sexually active with a partner of childbearing potential must be counselled to use an effective form of contraception during treatment and for three months after treatment.
- Eligible aged care residents must be assessed for suitability of treatment by a prescriber and a prescription provided prior to administration to a resident.
- The mechanism for accessing molnupiravir through the National Medical Stockpile (NMS) will continue for cases where a prescriber considers treatment is clinically indicated but the patient is not eligible under the PBS. Please refer to [Health Pathways](#) for information on how to access the WA Emergency COVID-19 Treatment Approval form for molnupiravir if required.

## Further resources

- [Molnupiravir – what prescribers and pharmacists need to know](#)
- [Molnupiravir – patient information](#)
- [WA Health guidelines for Molnupiravir for COVID-19](#)

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**DEPUTY INCIDENT CONTROLLER**  
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