



Príomhoifigeach Cliniciúil  
Oifig an Phríomhoifigigh Cliniciúil  
Ospidéal Dr Steevens, Lána Steevens  
Baile Átha Cliath 8 , D08 W2A8

Chief Clinical Officer  
Office of the Chief Clinical Officer  
Dr Steevens Hospital, Steevens Lane  
Dublin 8, D08 W2A8

[www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)  
[@hselive](https://twitter.com/hselive)  
t 01 635 2000  
e [cco@hse.ie](mailto:cco@hse.ie)

## BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Róisín Shortall  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

30th March 2022

**PQ 14905/22 Deputy Róisín Shortall - To ask the Minister for Health the details of the proposed pathways for accessing antivirals and monoclonal antibody treatments including testing arrangements; the status of communication campaigns; the engagements he has had with general practitioners; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Shortall,

Thank you for your representation.

### **Intravenous COVID-19 therapies**

A pathway is in place for those who are severely immunocompromised and test positive for COVID-19 to receive an intravenous COVID-19 monoclonal therapeutic. Patients can receive the treatment either as an inpatient or through referral from their GP or treating consultant to the hospital. This pathway has been operational since January 2022, the drug Sotrovimab is currently available via this pathway.

Community patients may self-refer for a COVID-19 test or contact their GP to arrange a COVID-19 test. Patients in the community who are symptomatic and who test positive for COVID-19 should contact their GP in the first instance to access this service.

GP's have the option of referring patients to be considered for intravenous COVID-19 monoclonal therapeutic through the HealthLink system. Once the referral has occurred the patient's eligibility for the treatment will be assessed by a clinical team in line with the therapeutic guidance for these drugs.

Communication regarding Sotrovimab is available to patients on the HSE website. In addition, the HSE is engaging regularly with advocacy groups on this matter.

In terms of engagements with GP's, the HSE has been liaising with them through the IMO and the ICGP. Interim guidance on the referral for COVID-19 Intravenous Treatment is available on the HSE website and has been circulated to GP's.



**Oral Covid-19 therapies**

A pathway for the delivery of oral anti-viral treatments for COVID-19 is being currently being finalised by the Therapeutic Implementation Group. The HSE have recently executed a contract with Pfizer to receive doses of the oral antiviral Paxlovid, and the delivery date for the first shipment of this therapeutic is expected in April 2022. Once Paxlovid is available in Ireland, eligible patients will be prescribed the oral therapy by their GP which can be taken in their place of residence.

Under this pathway community patients may self-refer for a COVID-19 test or contact their GP to arrange a COVID-19 test.

The HSE are engaging with GP's on this pathway and developing supports for GP's to include clinical guidance, online supports and training and prescribing support from antimicrobial pharmacists.

Once available, communication regarding Paxlovid will be through the usual channels including information on the HSE website and engagement with patient advocacy groups.

I hope this provides you with some assistance.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Hayden  
Office of the CCO