



Príomhoifigeach Cliniciúil  
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## BY EMAIL ONLY

Deputy Neale Richmond  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

**PQ2052/22- Deputy Neale Richmond- To ask the Minister for Health if he has any plans to expand access to Paxlovid; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

Dear Deputy Richmond,

Thank you for your representation.

In April 2022, when Paxlovid™ became available for use, the HSE COVID-19 Therapeutic Advisory Group (TAG) initially recommended that Paxlovid™ be considered for patients with a positive PCR test for COVID-19, in Tier 1 and 2 risk groups (Appendix 2 of the HSE Interim Guidance for the Pharmacological Management of Patients with COVID-19) with conditions listed in the Clinical Risk Factor table (Appendix 3 of the HSE Interim Guidance for the Pharmacological Management of Patients with COVID-19).

These cohorts were at the highest risk of severe disease and they were expected to receive the greatest benefit: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/acute-hospitals-division/drugs-management-programme/hse-interim-guidance-for-the-pharmacological-management-of-patients-hospitalised-with-covid-19.pdf>

In July 2022, due to high levels of community transmission of COVID-19, the HSE COVID-19 TAG and HSE clinical prioritisation subgroup, recommended the inclusion of an additional patient tier, tier 3 (Appendix 2 of the HSE Interim Guidance for the Pharmacological Management of Patients with COVID-19), where Paxlovid™ use could be considered. A positive self-administered antigen test was also considered sufficient for a diagnosis of COVID-19 and for consideration of treatment with Paxlovid™. This update was communicated to prescribers on 08/07/2022:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/pccs/circulars/gp/gp-circular-020-22-update-from-mmp-paxlovid.pdf>

Prescribing of Paxlovid™ is also supported by a bespoke drug-drug interaction enquiry service for GPs by the National Medicines Information Centre (NMIC) and additional supports for GPs to undertake patient assessment for their suitability for Paxlovid™ are available.



The HSE has established a Therapeutics Guideline Expert Committee (TGEC) as a follow on to the HSE-TAG. The HSE-TGEC provides clinical advice on current and emerging COVID-19 therapeutics to the HSE-Chief Clinical Officer (CCO) and may issue further guidance in relation to Paxlovid™.

I hope this provides you with some assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Hayden', written in a cursive style.

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Sharon Hayden  
General Manager  
Office of the CCO