



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta  
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Date: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022  
Reference: NCO-19-2022

### Ongoing GP Supports in relation to Novel Therapeutic Agents – Paxlovid

Dear Doctor,

I refer to Circular **NCO-18-2022**, dated 25<sup>th</sup> November, which outlined Covid payment changes and the ongoing supports to General Practitioners in relation to Novel Therapeutic Agents (Paxlovid).

Further detailed guidance has been developed on the process for ordering PCR and Rapid Antigen test kits, and on the packaging, transport and recording of PCR tests. GPs may, at their discretion, order test kits. Testing will only occur based on a clinical assessment where a clinician requires the result to contribute to the diagnosis and management of an individual patient.

The full guidance is attached across – please click on the icon to open. 

At present community testing (patient self-referral online) is still available, but it is anticipated this will be wound down in due course.

Ordering of stock will be enabled through the DMS portal from 2<sup>nd</sup> December onwards. To ensure delivery of initial stock by 9<sup>th</sup> December, GP practices can request an unplanned DMS order for an initial stock of PCR and Rapid Antigen Detection Test (RADT) kits, which should be made by COB December 6<sup>th</sup> to ensure delivery by December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Full details of the contents of each type of test kit is included within the guidance pack, and each practice will receive two sample packs of Rapid Antigen tests in the next few days.

Please also note the following changes to order and delivery schedules over Christmas and New Year:

- Last order date: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December
- Last delivery date: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December
- No service from Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December to Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December inclusive
- Top-up orders need to be made by midday on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> December to ensure delivery by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December
- No service from Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> December to Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January inclusive
- Normal schedules resume from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January onwards.

A dedicated support line is in place for any queries relating to any aspect of the service, which you can contact on 1800 807113 during business hours (9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday).



I would like once again to express the sincere gratitude of the HSE to General Practitioners and their teams for their contribution to date and continued support in the management of COVID-19.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'G. Crowley', is positioned above the printed name.

**Geraldine Crowley,  
Assistant National Director,  
Enhanced Community Care Programme &  
Primary Care Contract**