



Oifig an Stiúrthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta
Clár Cúraim Pobail Feabhsaithe &
Conarthaí Príomhchúraim
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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Date: 1st 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 25th 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 2nd December onwards. To ensure delivery of initial stock by 9th 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 6th to ensure delivery by December 9th.

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 21st December
- Last delivery date: Friday 23rd December
- No service from Saturday 24th December to Tuesday 27th December inclusive
- Top-up orders need to be made by midday on Wednesday 28th December to ensure delivery by Friday 30th December
- No service from Saturday 31st December to Monday 2nd January inclusive
- Normal schedules resume from Tuesday 3rd 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', with a horizontal line underneath.

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