Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

Clinician alert #82 – all clinicians

Effective from 15 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.
- There is no evidence evaluating the effectiveness of Molnupiravir in partially or fully vaccinated patients.
- It is unlikely that Molnupiravir will have a significant treatment benefit in patients who have received three doses of vaccine, unless the patient is immunosuppressed.
- There are limited indications for prescribing. Medical practitioners should review guidance available at COVID-19 information for health professionals (see Clinical Guidelines).
- Prescribing of other anti-viral medications for treatment of COVID-19 requires specialist approval.

Prescribing Molnupiravir

- Adults who have received three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine are not eligible, unless they are immunosuppressed or not immunocompetent as outlined in available guidance.
- Partially vaccinated adults may be eligible if they are at high risk of severe disease (see guidance).
- 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) and men who are sexually active with a partner of childbearing potential (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.

Further resources

- Molnupiravir – what prescribers and pharmacists need to know
- Molnupiravir – patient information
- WA Health guidelines for Molnupiravir for COVID-19
- WA Health recommended COVID-19 treatment decision tree for mild illness not requiring oxygen

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