

Integrating the COVID-19 Antiviral Treatment Service into our local Medicines Advice

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From May 2023 the task of follow up, triage and treatment supply of COVID-19 positive patients who were deemed high risk was transferred from the National Antiviral Service (NAVS) to the local health boards to manage.

Within Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) this work was assigned to the Pharmacy Governance team.

The Medicines Advice team works within the Governance team and were well placed to support the service delivery. They are experienced in working closely and communicating well whilst working geographically distanced across the health board. The team has excellent telephone consultation skills with members of the public as well as healthcare professionals. Medicines Advice are adept at performing interaction checks and reviewing tests results, counselling patients on side effects, and encouraging adverse reaction yellow card reports.

To support the service delivery across the Health Board, a senior pharmacy technician was funded.

This role was shared between existing and new Medicines Advice Pharmacy Technicians.

This poster briefly shows how patients that are potentially eligible for COVID-19 treatment following a positive test are supported by the Medicines Advice and Pharmacy Governance team. A graph also shows the ratio of COVID referrals to those patients ultimately receiving treatment.

2023 - May-Aug 261 patients who had been identified as being high risk of becoming seriously unwell with COVID tested positive

In September – this number was 283

Our staff worked tirelessly to contact each patient

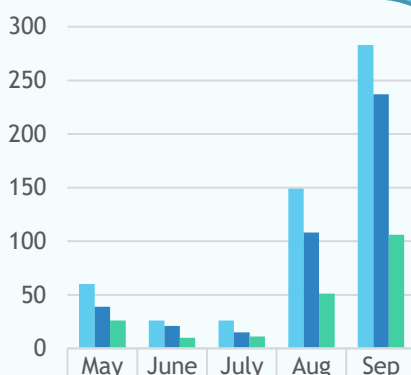
Patients contacted, medication reconciliation done over the phone, interactions and clinical eligibility confirmed by Pharmacy Technicians

COVID Positive Patients Referred from NAVS, other healthcare professionals or patient self referrals via NHS 111

Patient treated. Hospital admission not required

1st line: PAXLOVID tablets
2nd line: SOTROVIMAB Intravenous (in one of 3 IV HUBS in N.Wales)
3rd line: Molnupiravir capsules

Pharmacist review performed/logistics of medication supply to patient organised/ COVID-19 treatment issued



	May	June	July	Aug	Sep
#referrals to service	60	26	26	149	283
#patients triaged	39	21	15	108	237
#patients treated	26	10	11	51	106

The Antiviral Treatment service within BCUHB Governance/Medicines Advice team act quickly to triage patients and ensure antiviral treatment is supplied in a timely manner. Efficient delivery of this service is essential to reduce the risk of hospitalisation and to improve symptoms for those patients deemed high-risk from COVID-19 complications.

Thank you - Treatment provision would not be possible without the support of Blood Bikes Wales – a charity run by volunteers, supporting the NHS to deliver medicines to patients in remote areas of North Wales. And a special thank you to the Nurses in the Intravenous Suites across Betsi Cadwaladr

