

## Managing Covid-19 (NICE NG191)

[Overview](#) | [COVID-19 rapid guideline: managing COVID-19](#) | [Guidance](#) | [NICE](#)

The rapid guideline on managing Covid-19 includes a number of medicines-related recommendations. These have been summarised in the table below along with associated local guidance available on PAD. NICE CKS is also available, but users should check that it has been updated since NG191.

**For guidance in pregnancy please refer to [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection and pregnancy \(rcog.org.uk\)](#)**

NICE recommendation	Local guidance available
<p><b>Cough</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use simple measures first, including advising people over 1 year with cough to take honey. The dose is 1 teaspoon of <b>honey</b>.</li> <li>Consider short-term use of <b>codeine linctus</b>, <b>codeine phosphate</b> tablets or <b>morphine sulfate oral solution</b> in people 18 years and over to suppress coughing if it is distressing.</li> <li>Seek specialist advice for people under 18 years.</li> </ul>	<p>No local guidance NG191 includes a practical information table p.23</p>
<p><b>Fever</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advise people to take <b>paracetamol</b> or <b>ibuprofen</b> if they have fever and other symptoms that antipyretics would help treat.</li> <li>Tell them to continue only while both the symptoms of fever and the other symptoms are present</li> </ul>	<p>No local guidance</p>
<p><b>Breathlessness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If hypoxia is the likely cause of breathlessness consider a trial of oxygen therapy</li> </ul>	<p><b>Quick guide to oxygen in primary care for patients with Covid-19</b> <a href="#">Guidelines : Covid-19 - Surrey Heartlands (res-systems.net)</a> <b>Quick guide to oxygen in care homes for patients with Covid-19</b> <a href="#">Guidelines : Covid-19 - Care Homes (res-systems.net)</a></p>
<p><b>Anxiety, delirium and agitation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider trying a benzodiazepine to manage anxiety or agitation</li> </ul>	<p>No local guidance NG191 includes a practical information table p.27</p>
<p><b>Antibiotics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not use antibiotics for preventing or treating COVID-19. Only use antibiotics if there is strong clinical suspicion of additional bacterial infection</li> <li>If a person has suspected or confirmed secondary bacterial pneumonia, start antibiotic treatment as soon as possible.</li> <li>For antibiotic choices to treat community-acquired pneumonia caused by a secondary bacterial infection, see the recommendations on choice of antibiotic in the NICE antimicrobial prescribing guideline on community-acquired pneumonia. <b>DO NOT use azithromycin or doxycycline</b> to treat Covid-19</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Recommendations   Pneumonia (community-acquired): antimicrobial prescribing</a>   <a href="#">Guidance</a>   <a href="#">NICE</a></p>

NICE recommendation	Local guidance
<p><b>Corticosteroids</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer dexamethasone, or either hydrocortisone or prednisolone when dexamethasone cannot be used or is unavailable, to people with COVID-19 who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• need supplemental oxygen to meet their prescribed oxygen saturation levels or</li> <li>• have a level of hypoxia that needs supplemental oxygen but who are unable to have or tolerate it.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Continue corticosteroids for up to 10 days unless there is a clear indication to stop early, which includes discharge from hospital or a hospital-supervised virtual COVID ward. Being on a hospital-supervised virtual COVID ward is not classed as being discharged from hospital</li> </ul>	<p>Hospital or hospital supervised Covid ward only</p>
<p><b>Antivirals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir</b></li> <li>• <b>Remdesivir</b></li> <li>• <b>Molnupiravir</b></li> </ul>	<p>Do not prescribe in primary care – Use as per NHSE commissioning policy for:  <a href="#">Hospitalised patients</a>  <a href="#">Non-hospitalised patients</a></p>
<p><b>Neutralising monoclonal antibodies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Casirivimab &amp; imdevimab</b></li> <li>• <b>Sotrovimab</b></li> </ul>	<p>Do not prescribe in primary care – Use as per NHSE commissioning policy for:  <a href="#">Hospitalised patients</a>  <a href="#">Non-hospitalised patients</a></p>
<p><b>Tocilizumab</b></p>	<p>Hospital only</p>
<p><b>Sarilumab</b></p>	<p>Hospital only</p>
<p><b>Baricitinib</b></p>	<p>Hospital only</p>
<p><b>Budesonide (inhaled)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only use budesonide to treat Covid-19 as part of a clinical trial</li> </ul>	<p>Do not prescribe in primary care unless part of a clinical trial</p>
<p><b>Colchicine</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not offer colchicine to people in hospital to treat Covid-19</li> </ul>	<p>Do not prescribe in primary care</p>
<p><b>Ivermectin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not use except as part of a clinical trial</li> </ul>	<p>Do not prescribe in primary care except as part of a clinical trial</p>
<p><b>Low molecular weight heparins</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the risks of VTE and bleeding</li> <li>• consider pharmacological prophylaxis if the risk of VTE outweighs the risk of bleeding</li> </ul>	<p>Hospital-led acute care in the community</p>
<p><b>Vitamin D</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not offer vitamin D supplement solely for the prevention or treatment of Covid-19 except as part of a clinical trial</li> </ul>	<p><b>Vitamin D supplements: Information for patients</b>  <a href="#">Guidelines : Covid-19 - Surrey Heartlands (res-systems.net)</a>  <b>Vitamin D supplements: Information for care homes</b></p>

	<a href="#">Guidelines : Covid-19 - Care Homes (res-systems.net)</a>
<p><b>Palliative care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider an opioid and benzodiazepine combination</li> <li>• Consider concomitant use of an antiemetic and a regular stimulant laxative</li> </ul>	<p><b>Community Symptom control and patient support for the last days of life during the COVID-19 pandemic (Adults)</b></p> <p><a href="#">Guidelines : Covid-19 - Surrey Heartlands (res-systems.net)</a> <i>Under review</i></p>