Public Health Update
February 24, 2022
Availability of Paxlovid and Molnupiravir for Treatment of COVID-19

Situation
In December, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued emergency use authorizations (EUAs) for two oral antiviral medications to treat mild-to-moderate COVID-19: Paxlovid and Molnupiravir. Both drugs are available to eligible persons, free-of-charge, at the Southern Nevada Health District. Healthcare providers can refer patients to the Health District for evaluation and medication (if indicated) or evaluate their patients and issue a prescription to the Health District for medication receipt. Information about these two medications along with further instructions for evaluating and referring patients, follows.

Paxlovid
Paxlovid consists of two medications- nirmatrelvir and ritonavir. Each dose includes two 150 mg tablets of nirmatrelvir and one 100 mg tablet of ritonavir. Each course is one dose twice daily for 5 days. It is authorized for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in adults and pediatric patients (12 years of age and older weighing at least 40 kilograms) with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 testing, and who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death[1]. It is available by prescription only, should be initiated as soon as possible after diagnosis of COVID-19 and within five days of symptom onset, and is not authorized for use for longer than five consecutive days. In clinical trials, compared to placebo, severe outcomes (hospitalization or death) were reduced by 88%. Paxlovid has significant drug-drug interactions, so caution must be exercised when prescribing it. Additionally, its use is contraindicated in those with severe renal or hepatic impairment and its dose must be reduced in those with moderate renal impairment. For further information, visit Paxlovid HCP FS 02232022 (fda.gov).

Molnupiravir
Each dose consists of four 200 mg capsules. Each course is one dose (800 mg) every 12 hours for 5 days. It is authorized for the treatment of mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in adults with positive results of direct SARS-CoV-2 testing, and who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death[1]. It is available by prescription only, should be initiated as soon as possible after diagnosis of COVID-19 and within five days of symptom onset, and is not authorized for use for longer than five consecutive days. In clinical trials, compared to placebo, severe outcomes (hospitalization or death) were reduced by 30%. No drug-drug interactions have yet been identified and no dosage adjustments are needed, but its use is not recommended during pregnancy and breastfeeding is not recommended during treatment and for 4 days after the final dose. For further information, visit FACT SHEET FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS: EMERGENCY USE AUTHORIZATION FOR MOLNUPIRAVIR (fda.gov).

[1] People with Certain Medical Conditions | CDC

Instructions for Referring Patients

Healthcare providers can refer their patients to the Health District for evaluation and receipt of medication (if indicated). Alternatively, healthcare providers can evaluate their patients and if treatment is indicated, can issue a prescription then refer their patient to the Health District, where they can receive their medications.

Referring patients for evaluation and receipt of medication (if indicated)

Healthcare providers can refer their patients to the Health District's main location at 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas. Once there, patients should go to the COVID-19 testing site, where they can receive a rapid COVID-19 test and learn more about the availability of and their eligibility for treatment. If their test is positive and they consent to undergo evaluation (for possible treatment), that evaluation will be done by a Health District provider. If treatment is indicated, a 5-day course of medication will be dispensed by the Health District pharmacy, at no cost to the patient.

Evaluating then referring patients for treatment

Healthcare providers can also evaluate their patients and, if indicated, issue a prescription via fax (702.759.1440) or e-prescription to the Southern Nevada Health District Pharmacy or issue a written prescription for patient delivery to the Health District COVID-19 testing site. Healthcare providers should instruct their patients to bring a copy of their COVID-19 test result to the Health District COVID-19 testing site, where they will receive the medication.

NOTES:

It is very important for patients to come on the same day because treatment must be initiated within five days of symptom onset. A delay in evaluation and/or receipt of medication may place patients outside of this time window, voiding eligibility.

The Health District's COVID-19 testing site is open Monday – Friday 6:30 am – 2:30 pm, excluding holidays.

The Health District's Pharmacy is open Monday – Thursday 8:30 am – 5:30 pm and Friday from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm, excluding holidays.