

TO ALL COMMUNITY PHARMACY
CONTRACTORS IN GRAMPIAN

Date: 6 June, 2025
Our Ref: PCS/Antivirals
Enquiries to: gram.pharmaceuticalcareservices@nhs.scot

Dear Colleague

Antivirals for Patients at High Risk of Complication from Covid-19

Since December 2021 a sub network of community pharmacies across Grampian have been providing supplies of the antivirals Paxlovid and Molnupiravir as part of our treatment pathway for individuals at high risk of complications from Covid-19.

Since the end of May 2025 the National supplies of Paxlovid and Molnupiravir are no longer available. Therefore these now need to be purchased via the normal wholesale route under the National Arrangements for the Supply of Medicines (all stock pharmacies held until the end of May 2025 will now be expired and must be disposed of accordingly). As the assessments are undertaken remotely, the prescriptions we use for the service locally are issued via CoPPr.

Treatment with the antivirals needs to be initiated within the first five days of onset symptoms, meaning there is a time sensitivity for the patient in terms of presenting, being assessed and starting treatment.

We recognise the cost of these medicines now they are in the wholesale chain, the potential for them to be stocked and go out of date and anticipate that most pharmacies will only order when a prescription is received.

NHS Grampian has decided to arrange for two pharmacies, Boots Garthdee and Boots Springfield, Elgin to hold two packs of each medication in stock to supplement the usual supply routes. However, at this time only supplies of Molnupiravir are available to order until supply issues with Paxlovid can be resolved. Whilst a CoPPr prescription could come to any pharmacy requesting a supply be provided to a patient, we recognise that supplies will be delayed at weekends or that a patient may need to start their treatment immediately to be within the optimum time window. The availability of stock at the two pharmacies means there should be a route of almost guaranteed access for patients either via their normal community pharmacy if they can wait for a supply to be ordered or from one of the two Boots branches if they cannot.

We have chosen these two pharmacies based on location and opening hours. The level of stock and whether we need to expand the locations further. This will be kept under review based on whether circulating Covid levels and assessment rates change in the future, but we believe this arrangement is a suitable backup for normal access routes currently.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have diligently supported this care pathway for the last 4+ years, ensuring that patients receive their medication quickly.

For details of endorsing please see: [PCA\(P\)\(2025\)08 - Paxlovid Endorsing Guidance | Community Pharmacy Scotland](#)

Yours sincerely,



David Pflieger
Director of Pharmacy
NHS Grampian