

# Advanced Prescription for Therapeutics COVID-19 Care In The Community



A programme by **WellSouth**

Last Update: 24/01/2024

## Intended Purpose

Access to antivirals has been identified as the most evidence-based measure in the Care in the Community toolkit and this adjustment best serves those at higher risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19. COVID-19 therapeutics can be prescribed to eligible people to reduce the severity of illness and help reduce the risk of hospitalisation for those most vulnerable to COVID-19.

**HealthPathways Link:** <https://southern.communityhealthpathways.org>

## Eligibility

To be eligible the patient must:

- Have COVID-19 and symptoms or be a Household Contact and have symptoms; and
- Been sick within the last 5 days; and
- Meet one of the additional [antiviral eligibility criteria](#).

### Antiviral access criteria:

- Māori and Pacific people aged 50 years or older
- Everyone aged 65 years or older.
- Anyone aged 50 years or older with fewer than two COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Anyone with a severely weakened immune system.
- Anyone with Down syndrome.
- Anyone with sickle cell disease.
- Anyone previously in critical or high dependency hospital care from COVID-19.
- Anyone with a disability who is at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19.
- Anyone with frailty or vulnerability due to one or more severe health conditions.
- Anyone with 3 or more high-risk medical conditions.

Visit [COVID19.health.nz](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/health-topics/covid-19/covid-19-health) for the full eligibility criteria.

## Exclusions

- Not eligible for a GMS Clawback.
- Claiming is limited to one type of claim per person, per day, per practice.
- No simultaneous claiming against other funding streams, this includes claims for COVID-19 Community Care Assessments.

## Claiming

Claiming is via the WellSouth PHN portal.



Service codes for your PMS—please set these up prior to using the programme.

Code	Amount (incl. GST)	Description	Assessment Type
COVAP5	\$103.50	Adv Rx Issued (Initial prescription)	Advance Prescription for COVID-19 Antiviral Medication
COVAP6	\$69.00	Adv Rx Not Issued (Initial prescription consult that does not result in a prescription)	
COVAP7	\$51.75	Adv Rx Re-Issue (Further advance prescription when initial prescription has expired)	

## Payment Rates (excl. GST)

\$90.00 + GST	Initial prescription— Prescription issued
\$60.00 + GST	Initial prescription consult— No prescription issued
\$45.00 +GST	Further advance prescription when initial prescription has expired.

## Can a co-payment be charged?

No co-payments can be charged for the services funded within this guidance.



## Key Information

- Advance prescriptions for oral COVID-19 antiviral medicines will not be clinically appropriate for some patients that otherwise meet the eligibility criteria. There is no obligation for a clinician to issue an advance prescription.
- A claim can be submitted for each person in a household who is COVID-19 positive, including probable cases.
- The prescription must be written by an authorised prescriber practising within their scope, after an appropriate in-person or virtual consultation.
- Claims can be made for consultations undertaken by any means including in-person/telephone/video/text/patient portal.

Situations where advance prescriptions may be particularly useful are:

- For people who are at very high risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 in the near future e.g., patients who meet eligibility criteria, and who are household contacts but not yet symptomatic or COVID-19 positive, but may become a case soon.
- For people who are travelling to other regions within New Zealand who may struggle to contact their usual health provider at that time.
- For people who live in remote and rural areas with limited availability of primary care or pharmacies that can provide antiviral medication without a prescription.

See the advance prescription [Guidance Document](#) for further details.

## When does the claim need to be completed?

Claiming must be completed within 6 months of treatment.

### Exceptions

For consults that were conducted before the 1st of October 2023 where the outcome is not Therapeutic Administration, patient must not have already had a COVID-19 Community Care Assessment claim, unless the claim is a Patient-Initiated Clinical Escalation which can be claimed as an additional on the same day.

*If your PMS is aligned to the WellSouth Clinical BCTIs, please contact [practicenetwork@wellsouth.org.nz](mailto:practicenetwork@wellsouth.org.nz) with your new Account Internal ID.*