COVID + Learning Network Webinar Questions

## COVID + Learning Network Webinar 22

**Q1: Where patients are presenting to GPs and they really don't have the medical history or full information about their medications, what's your recommendation on what to do in that scenario?**

**A: *Professor Michael Dooley, Director of Pharmacy, The Alfred***

**At the moment we believe nirmatrelvir and ritonavir (Paxlovid) is better than molnupiravir (Lagevrio). You do want to get a reasonable medication list and if you have a patient who can't tell you what medications they are on then you've probably got other clinical issues as well; getting an accurate medication history is important.**

**In the instance that you have a patient and don't know anything about them or what medication they are taking; if there is no pathology then you can default to molnupiravir (Lagevrio). These drugs are only used for five days, and they have minimal side effects of concern; so in those circumstances you would default to molnupiravir (Lagevrio) and prescribe that, unless you have a clear contradiction.**

**\*For people needing support for making antiviral prescribing decisions, there is the Victorian COVID-19 therapies PBS support line. It is intended for use by Victorian PBS prescribers such as GPs and nurse practitioners. The helpline is staffed 7 days a week between 8 to 5pm and can be contacted on 03 8290 3801**

**Q2: Regarding monitoring for post injections, the requirement is for 15 to 60 minutes. Do we know how pharmacies are addressing that, and what are health services applying as their minimum observation period?**

**A: *COVID positive Pathways team, DH***

**There are no clear rules around this. We recommend at least 15 minutes based on the study that was done where no-one had a severe adverse event such as an anaphylaxis after that 15-minute period. Our clinical advice is based around what seems pragmatic; the last thing you want is somebody who's very high risk sitting in an indoor environment for 60 minutes where they might catch COVID because they've been there for so long and people are coming and going.**

**The advice in our FAQ is to monitor for at least 15 minutes. In terms of what's happening in the pharmacies it is like what they would do for any other vaccination that has a monitoring period; they sit in an area where the pharmacist or the Supercare nurse can keep an eye on them.**

**Q3: For clarification, when we keep saying within five days that magic number of five days, are we talking about from the point of positive PCR, or are we talking about from the point of onset of symptoms?**

**A: Professor Michael Dooley, Director of Pharmacy, The Alfred**

**It's onset symptoms.**