

# COVID-19 Oral Anti-virals - Supply by Community Pharmacy within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

*Moving to a community pharmacy dispensing model*

14 June 2023



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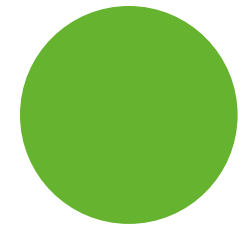
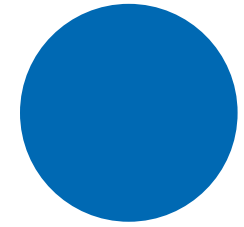
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# Aims of community pharmacy supply service

- To provide a primary care pathway ensuring routine access to COVID-19 oral antiviral treatment for individuals at highest risk of hospitalisation.
- Build on current involvement of community pharmacy with covid therapies.
- Oral antivirals only. (Provided at no cost to pharmacy)
- Improved patient experience,
  - wider choice of supply points
  - ease of access
  - reduced travel time
  - ability to obtain as soon as possible, enabling sooner recovery or treatment within recommended period.
- Post supply point of contact.

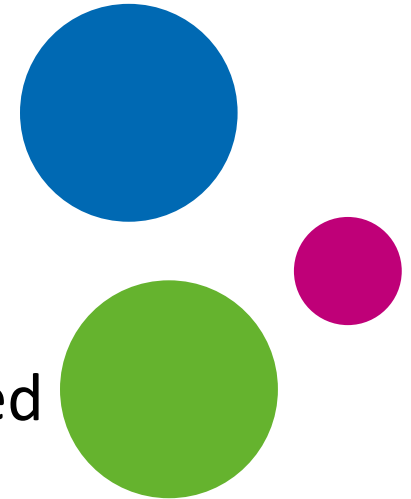


# COVID-19 Medicine Delivery Unit (CMDU) Service



- Background

- CMDU service commenced 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021, provided by trusts.
- NHSE direction to stand up service to offer neutralising monoclonal antibodies (nMabs) or antivirals to non-hospitalised “highest” risk COVID-19 positive patients.
- Community based clinical service model.
- **Aim of prevention of hospitalisation and death.**

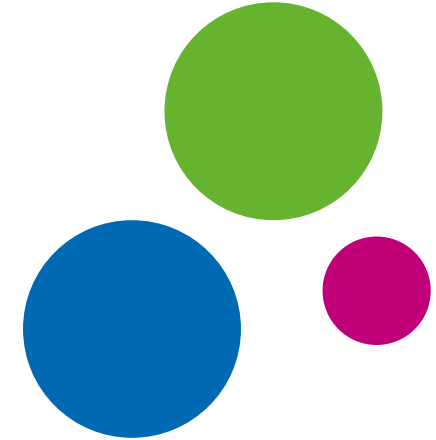


# COVID-19 Medicine Delivery Unit (CMDU) Service



- **Current CMDU Service in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

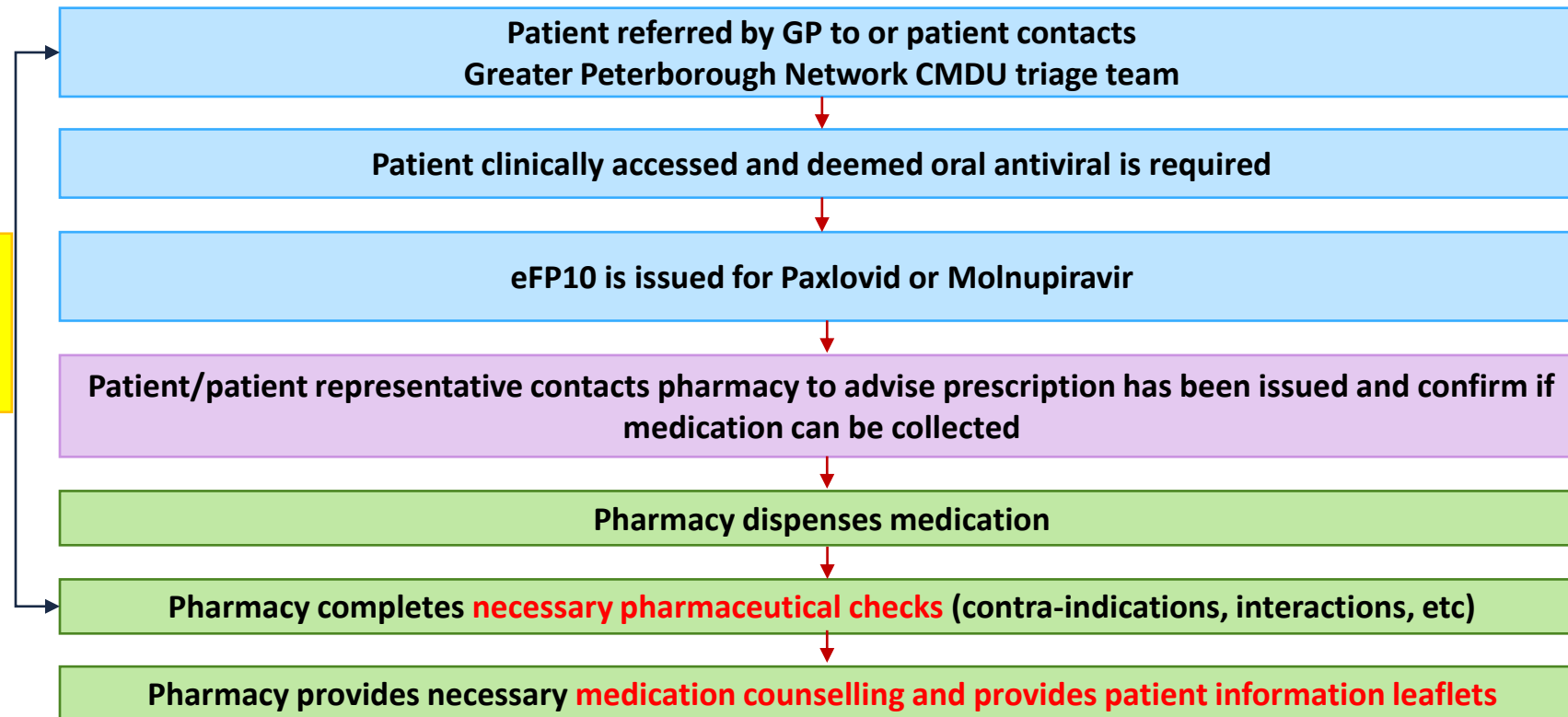
- CMDU service, **from April 2023**, is provided by Greater Peterborough Network (GPN) CMDU triage team.
- **Two COVID-19 oral antivirals** considered and :
  - nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (**Paxlovid®**) - dual oral antiviral
  - **Molnupiravir** (Lagevrio®) - oral antiviral
- **From May 2023 listed in drug tariff, so can be prescribed on an FP10**
- GPN CMDU triage team:
  - ✓ Will receive referrals from patients or GPs
  - ✓ Patients will be assessed
  - ✓ Following assessment of patient, if appropriate a COVID-19 oral antiviral may be prescribed.
  - ✓ The Greater Peterborough Network CMDU triage team, will issue an eFP10.
- Please note, **we will not expect a GP in general practice** in primary care to prescribe these oral antivirals currently and whilst we have a commissioned service.



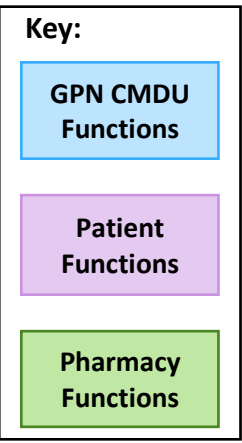
# CMDU Service Process



Supply of COVID-19 antiviral medication via eFP10 by Community Pharmacy for the treatment of COVID-19 in non-hospitalised adults following assessment by the Greater Peterborough Network CMDU triage team



For **clinical queries**, please contact GPN CMDU triage team at [gpn.cmdu@nhs.net](mailto:gpn.cmdu@nhs.net)



# COVID-19 Antiviral Medicines



As these are two **new medications** you will be dispensing and due to the **nature of these medications** it is **imperative** that you are familiar with the medications and have the necessary knowledge to dispense safely and counsel the patient.

- Please read: Summary of Product Characteristics :
  - a. Paxlovid® - nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/13145>
  - b. Lagevrio® - Molnupiravir: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/13044>
- **Counselling** the patient and or patient representative is crucial. Please consider if you are delivering medication.
- Please provide patient with an **information leaflet** or inform patient of link to access the leaflet. **Leaflet provides important information.**
  - ✓ UK Health Security Agency Drug information leaflets (can be printed or ordered by community pharmacies)
    - Paxlovid®: <https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Spaxlovid>
    - Molnupiravir: <https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Smolnupiravirantiviralmedicineleaflet>

# Paxlovid® (Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir)



- **Educational Resources**

- **Pfizer – Paxlovid** : Link: [Resources | PAXLOVID▼ \(nirmatrelvir/ritonavir\) | PfizerPro UK](#)
- Includes information on:
  - Dosing Information and dose adjustments
  - Drug Interactions
  - Frequently asked questions

- **Dose:**

- **2 x 150mg nirmatrelvir (pink) plus 1 x 100mg ritonavir (white) orally every 12 hours for 5 day**
- Tablet size both: approximately 17mm x 9mm
- Take with or without food
- Swallow whole (*do not crush or chew*)
- **Dose for patients with moderate renal impairment (CKD Stage 3) : 1 x 150mg nirmatrelvir (pink) plus 1 x 100mg ritonavir (white) orally every 12 hours for 5 day (do not split the pack, see slide 16 for details on dispensing in renal impairment )**

- **Exclusions:**

- Aged **less than 18 years**
- **Pregnancy** (effective contraception for 1 cycle)
- Patients with **severe hepatic impairment.**
- Patients with **renal failure and severe renal impairment (CKD Stages 4 & 5).**
- **Ritonavir is a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor leading to significant potential drug interactions**
- **Drug interactions – see next slide for link**

- **Side effects:** common – diarrhoea, vomiting, altered sense of taste.





# Important: Paxlovid® Patient Counselling Points *(continued on next page)*



1. Paxlovid is not suitable for use in **pregnancy or breastfeeding**.
2. Women of childbearing potential should **avoid becoming pregnant during treatment with Paxlovid**.
3. Use of ritonavir may **reduce the efficacy of combined hormonal contraceptives**. **Patients using combined hormonal contraceptives should be advised to use an effective alternative contraceptive method or an additional barrier method of contraception during treatment and until after one complete menstrual cycle after stopping Paxlovid**.
4. **Breast-feeding** is not recommended during treatment and for 7 days after the last dose.
5. The **dose** is two pink Nirmatrelvir tablets plus one white Ritonavir tablet taken together twice a day for five days
6. **CKD 3: The dose** is one pink Nirmatrelvir tablet plus one white Ritonavir tablet taken together twice a day for five days (warn that pills will have been popped out of blister packs)
7. **Swallow** the tablets with plenty of fluid
8. **Do not open**, break, or crush the tablets
9. This medicine can be **taken with or without food**
10. Try to separate doses by as close to **12 hours** at a convenient time
11. **Start taking Paxlovid®** the day you receive it, do not wait until the following day
12. Treat Paxlovid® as you would a course of antibiotics, if you feel better whilst taking it then **finish the course** to avoid antiviral resistance developing.
13. If you **forget to take a dose** and it is still within 8 hours of the time it is usually taken, you should take it as soon as possible and take the next one at the usual time
14. If **more than 8 hours** has elapsed, the missed dose should not be taken and the treatment should resume according to the normal dosing schedule.

# Important: Paxlovid® Patient Counselling Points *(continued)*



**14. Common side effects: diarrhoea, vomiting, altered sense of taste.**

15. If **you experience a side effect** then contact your GP, pharmacist or NHS 111 who can give advice and prescribe.

**16. Further information** will be provided in the **patient information leaflet** sent with the tablets.

17. Ensure patient understands that they need to take the dose of 3 tablets (or 2 in renal impairment) **at the same time**, but not necessarily in the same mouthful if they have difficulty swallowing tablets.

18. Patient has been counselled on **risk of drug interactions:**

- ✓ There are other medicines that may not mix with Paxlovid®.
- ✓ You must tell your doctor or pharmacist if you intend to take any other medicines, including prescription and over the counter medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements, during the 5 days you are taking Paxlovid® and the days following.
- ✓ Paracetamol and Ibuprofen are safe to take alongside Paxlovid® but be aware that branded forms (Panadol, Nurofen etc.) often contain other medicines.

# Paxlovid® interactions



- Ritonavir is a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor leading to significant potential drug interactions
- **Useful resources (2):**

1. [Liverpool COVID-19 Interactions \(covid19-druginteractions.org\)](https://www.covid19-druginteractions.org/)

Link: <https://www.covid19-druginteractions.org/>

COVID-19 Drug Interactions

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

About Interaction Checkers Prescribing Resources Contact Us

With selected WHO Essential Medicines and Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) now available in the Prescribing Resources section - click here for more information.

If a drug is not listed below it cannot automatically be assumed it is safe to coadminister.

COVID Drugs	Co-medications	Drug Interactions
paxlovid	apixaban	Check COVID/COVID drug interactions
A-Z Class Trade	A-Z Class	Reset Checker
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Please read the interaction details as management of these interactions may be complex.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Apixaban	Switch to table view Results Key
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Please read the interaction details as management of these interactions may be complex.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Apixaban	<b>Do Not Coadminister</b>
		Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Please read the interaction details as management of these interactions may be complex.)
		Apixaban
		More info

A-Z: All medicines where PF-07321332/ritonavir is NOT an appropriate option

DO NOT USE CONSIDER RISKS AND BENEFITS

Abemaciclib Acalabrutinib Alfuzosin Aliskiren Amiodarone Apalutamide Apixaban Avanafil Bedaquiline Bosentan  
Budesonide Carbamazepine Ceritinib Ciclosporin Cisapride Clonazepam Clopidogrel Clozapine Colchicine  
Contraception, hormonal Dabigatran Delamanid Dexamphetamine Diazepam Digoxin Dihydroergotamine  
Disopyramide Dronedarone Elbasvir/grazoprevir (Zepatier) Elettriptan Encorafenib Enzalutamide Eplerenone  
Ergotamine Everolimus Exviera Fentanyl Flecainide Flurazepam Fluticasone Fostamatinib Fusidic acid  
Glecaprevir/pibrentasvir (Maviret) Ibrutinib Ivabradine Ketoconazole Lamotrigine Lercanidipine Letemovir  
Levothyroxine Lomitapide Lurasidone Methadone Methylphenidate Midazolam Neratinib Pethidine Phenobarbital  
Phenytoin Pimozide Piroxicam Propafenone Propoxyphene Quetiapine Quinidine Ranolazine Rifabutin  
Rifampicin Riociguat Rivaroxaban Rosuvastatin Salmeterol Sildenafil Simvastatin Sirolimus Sodium fusidate  
St. John's Wort Tacrolimus Tadalafil Theophylline Ticagrelor Valproic acid Vardenafil Venetoclax Viekirax  
Vinblastine Vincristine Voriconazole Warfarin

More detail of drug/drug interactions in found on the Liverpool COVID Drug Interaction Checker - Click Here

# Paxlovid® interactions



- **Useful resources:**

- 2. **Pfizer Medicines Interaction Checker :**

Link <https://www.pfizermedicalinformation.co.uk/en-gb/medicines-interaction-checker?>

<p><b>Choose Medicine 1:</b></p> <p>PAXLOVID ▼ (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) ▼</p> <p><b>Choose Medicine 2:</b></p> <p>Alfuzosin ▼</p> <p><b>Submit</b></p>	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Contraindicated Drug Interaction: Interactions that result in increased concentrations of concomitant medicinal product as Paxlovid inhibits their CYP3A4 metabolic pathway.</p> <p>AUC change, Cmax Change: ↑Alfuzosin</p> <p>Increased plasma concentrations of alfuzosin may lead to severe hypotension and is therefore contraindicated.</p> <p>Please access Paxlovid Summary of Product Characteristics at <a href="https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/search?q=paxlovid">https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/search?q=paxlovid</a> for more information on interactions.</p> <p>This information is correct as of (14.06.2023). The information provided may change in the future and you are reminded to always consult the most recent version of the summary of product characteristics.</p>
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# Paxlovid® Interactions



- Can the **interacting medicine be held / adjusted?**
  - Examples:
    - **Statins** – hold for 5 days of treatment plus 3 days after
    - **Amlodipine** – monitor BP or hold (clinical decision)
    - **Clopidogrel** – can be withheld if not recently stented (clinical decision)
    - **Codeine** – analgesic efficacy may be reduced – patient counselling

# Paxlovid® dispensing – renal dosing

- For patients with CKD 3 a dose of 150mg nirmatrelvir (**ONE PINK tablet**) AND 100mg ritonavir (**ONE WHITE tablet**) together TWICE DAILY for 5 days will be prescribed.

Patient must be advised to discarded extra tablets where not required for the prescribed treatment.

**STEP ONE:** Remove one of the 150 mg nirmatrelvir tablets from the morning dose and remove one of the 150 mg nirmatrelvir tablets from the evening dose of the blister card (see figure 1 below). The nirmatrelvir tablets that are removed should be the ones closest to the middle of the blister pack.

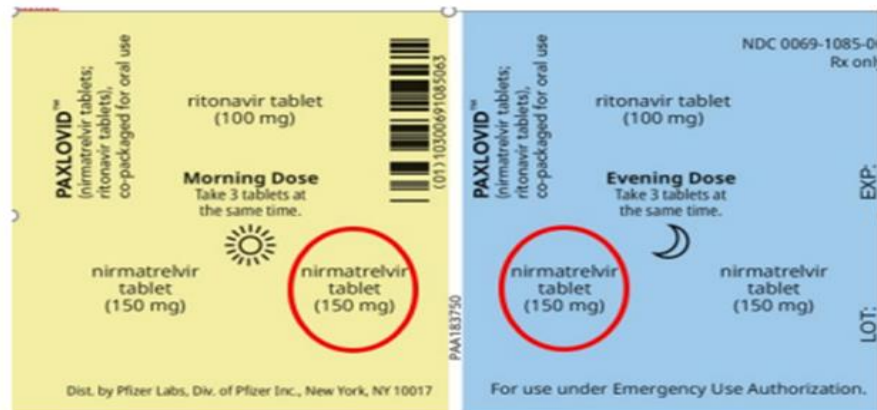


Figure 1: Remove the nirmatrelvir tablets circled in red from the blister card

# Molnupiravir (Lagevrio®)



- Dose

- 800mg (**4 x 200mg**) orally every 12 hours for 5 days
- Swedish Orange colour capsules are 21.7mm x 7.6mm
- Take with or without food
- Swallow whole (do not open, crush or chew) with a sufficient amount of fluid (e.g., a glass of water)

- Exclusions

- Aged **less than 18 years**
- **Pregnancy (require effective contraception)**

- Side effects

- Diarrhoea, nausea, dizziness



# Important: Molnupiravir Patient Counselling Points



1. Molnupiravir is not suitable for use in **pregnancy or breastfeeding**.
2. Women of childbearing potential should **use effective contraception for the duration of treatment and for 4 days after the last dose of Lagevrio® (molnupiravir)**.
3. **Breast-feeding** is not recommended during treatment and for 4 days after the last dose
4. The **dose** is four 200 mg capsules, twice a day for 5 days and you should start it as soon as you receive it (within 5 days of treatment onset).
5. **Swallow** the capsule whole with plenty of fluid (for instance a glass of water).
6. **Do not open**, break, or crush the capsules.
7. This medicine can be **taken with or without food**.
8. Try to separate doses by as close to **12 hours** at a convenient time (for example, 8am and 8pm).
9. If you forget to take a **dose within 10 hours** of the time it is usually taken, you should take it as soon as possible and take the next dose at the usual time.
10. If you forget to take a dose by **more than 10 hours**, you should not take the missed dose and instead take the next dose at the usual time.
11. **Common side effects include** diarrhoea, nausea and dizziness. Uncommon (1 in 100) side effects include headache, vomiting, rash and urticaria.
12. **If you experience a side effect**, including those not listed here, call 111 or speak to your GP or pharmacist.
13. **Further information** will be provided in the **patient information leaflet** sent with the capsules.



# Extension of Expiry Dates



- **The expiry date** of specified batches of Lagevrio® (molnupiravir) 200mg hard capsules and Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir 150mg and ritonavir 100mg) film-coated tablets, has been **extended beyond the labelled expiry date on the pack.**
- This extension was approved by the MHRA based on scientific information that extending the shelf life of this product will not affect its safety profile or how well it works.
- Specified batches are as listed in the patient guidance below.
- **Action required:** It is important that the patient is informed of this and they are reassured that it remains safe to take this medicine. **To support informing the patient, please provide the patient with the patient guidance produced by DHSC:**
  - For patients :
    - i. **Paxlovid®** : <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/expiry-date-of-paxlovid-nirmatrelvir-and-ritonavir-antiviral-medication-extended>
    - ii. Lagevrio® - **Molnupiravir** : <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/expiry-date-of-lagevrio-molnupiravir-antiviral-medication-extended>
      - Letter to healthcare professionals: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/dhpc/2575/Document>
- Community pharmacies **do not need to amend the dates on the packs.**
- It may be good practice to document on the PMR that this advice was given.



# Help with queries



- For support with **patient clinical and pharmaceutical queries** contact **GPN CMDU Service** at:
  - ✓ [gpn.cmdu@nhs.net](mailto:gpn.cmdu@nhs.net)
- Additional advice regarding Paxlovid **drug interactions**
  - ✓ [Liverpool COVID-19 Interactions \(covid19-druginteractions.org\)](https://covid19-druginteractions.org)
  - ✓ <https://www.pfizermedicalinformation.co.uk/en-gb/medicines-interaction-checker?>
- If you receive a prescription from other than GPN CMDU Service, please contact the **GPN CMDU Service** at:
  - ✓ [gpn.cmdu@nhs.net](mailto:gpn.cmdu@nhs.net)
- Further information:  
Clinical commissioning policy and highest risk cohorts accessed at:
  - ✓ [Coronavirus » Interim clinical commissioning policy: Treatments for non-hospitalised patients with COVID-19 \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/interim-clinical-commissioning-policy-treatments-for-non-hospitalised-patients-with-covid-19/)
  - ✓ [Defining the highest risk clinical subgroups upon community infection with SARS-CoV-2 when considering the use of neutralising monoclonal antibodies \(nMABs\) and antiviral drugs \(updated March 2023\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/defining-the-highest-risk-clinical-subgroups-upon-community-infection-with-sars-cov-2-when-considering-the-use-of-neutralising-mono-clonal-antibodies-nmabs-and-antiviral-drugs)

# Obtaining Stock



- Order from **Alliance Healthcare** in your usual manner.
- Are available on a **same day delivery service**.
- **Free of charge** (no cost for medication).
- Remains property of NHS until dispensed.
- There is a **monthly cap** on ordering of **6 packs** of either Paxlovid or molnupiravir. However, if you find this is insufficient to meet current demand then this can be raised. Please let us know if this is the case and we will ask for the increase on your behalf via the regional NHS England team. Please contact Kelly or Indira via email at [cpicb.prescribingpartnership@nhs.net](mailto:cpicb.prescribingpartnership@nhs.net)
- Order codes:

PIP	Description	Item Size	EAN
8051765	LAGEVRIO CAPS 200MG	40	0191778023510
8051773	PAXLOVID FC TABS 150MG/100MG	30	54145062384961

