Australian Government
Department of Health and Aged Care

Use of Lagevrio (molnupiravir) in residential aged care

This guide outlines the key considerations of using Lagevrio (molnupiravir) in residential aged care clinical practices.

Lagevrio (molnupiravir) can be effective in treating people with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are within 5 days of displaying symptoms and who have a high risk of progressing to severe disease.

Lagevrio (molnupiravir) is listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and must be prescribed by an authorised prescriber (GP or Nurse Practitioner) who has assessed the suitability of this treatment, prior to administration to an aged care resident.

Who is the medicine for?

Lagevrio (molnupiravir) can be considered for use in COVID-19 positive **residents aged 70 years or older**.

- Eligibility information for other high-risk groups, including those **aged 50 or older with two additional risk factors** for developing severe disease and **First Nations people aged 30 or older** with one risk factor for developing severe disease or 18 years of age or older, with moderate to severe immunocompromise, or who have been previously hospitalised from COVID-19 and subsequently re-infected, can be found at www.health.gov.au/oral-treatments.

Depending on the state or territory where the home is located, a registered nurse or a carer supervised by a nurse may be able to administer the treatment.

A COVID-19 diagnosis can be confirmed by either a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test or a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT), preferably administered by a member of the clinical team.

Clinical considerations

Side effects

The most common side effects reported for Lagevrio (molnupiravir) include diarrhoea, nausea, and dizziness. It is recommended that residents receiving Lagevrio be closely monitored for these side effects.

Dose adjustment

No dose adjustment is recommended for elderly people including those with renal or hepatic impairment.

As Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) is more effective than Lagevrio, the use of Lagevrio should be limited to situations where in the opinion of the prescriber, Paxlovid cannot be used due to contraindications. Further details are available at Lagevrio PBS fact sheet.

Interactions

No drug interactions have been identified with Lagevrio (molnupiravir).

Swallowing

Do not open, break, or crush the capsules. If the aged care resident cannot swallow capsules whole, please consult the treating doctor.

See the Lagevrio (molnupiravir) PBS product information fact sheet

Preparation for potential use of this medicine

To facilitate speedy access to treatment, residential aged care homes are encouraged to pre-assess eligible residents, as per the advice above.

Pre-assessment actions should include:

- discussing consent options for potential treatment with the resident and relevant decision-makers
- identifying eligible residents in the home's clinical management systems
- discussing potential medicine administration with the resident's GP, nurse practitioner or clinical care staff.

Accessing this treatment

Lagevrio (molnupiravir) is a prescription only (S4) medicine which requires a prescription from an authorised prescriber, like a GP or Nurse Practitioner.

Lagevrio is available on the PBS, which means the medication can be dispensed by a community pharmacy with a prescription.

If a resident is eligible for this treatment and is experiencing mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms, please contact their treating clinician or health professional to arrange a clinical assessment as soon as possible.

As with other antiviral treatments, such as the treatment for shingles or influenza, this medicine should be started as soon as possible. People aged 70 years or older, when test positive, regardless of risk factors, can commence treatment with or without symptoms.

Use your usual process to prepare for a clinical consultation. Where the resident's treating clinician is not available, follow your home's process to source medical support.

A course of Lagevrio (molnupiravir) is 800 mg (four 200 mg capsules) twice a day (every 12 hours) for 5 days. Lagevrio (molnupiravir) is supplied as a bottle of 40 capsules; it should be stored below 30°C.

Lagevrio (molnupiravir) can be taken with or without food.

Please review the TGA Molnupiravir (Lagevrio) product information and discuss with the resident's treating GP to ensure that this medication is administered safely.

If a resident needs to be transferred to hospital while receiving a course of Lagevrio, send the already started blister pack of medication with them to the hospital (if appropriate).

This should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Adverse events

Please ensure all possible adverse reactions are reported using the usual existing mechanisms. Anyone can report an adverse event.

To report an event online you will need the following information:

- reporter details
- patient details
- medicine details
- reaction details.

For residents and families/substitute decision makers

Download the fact sheet for residents and families/substitute decision makers on oral treatments.

More information

See the TGA Adverse Event Management System privacy statement.

More information on the updated PBS eligibility criteria and prescribing information