

## SUMMARY GUIDANCE FOR PHARMACOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT OF HOSPITALISED PATIENTS WITH COVID-19

### Management of COVID-19 in hospitalised children or adolescents

HOSPITALISED CHILDREN or ADOLESCENTS WITH COVID-19					
Medication	<a href="#">NCCET recommendation</a>	Contraindications (CI) & Precautions Refer to drug <a href="#">guidelines</a> for further detail re: contraindications, precautions & drug interactions.	Supplemental low or high flow oxygen	Non-invasive ventilation	Invasive mechanical ventilation
<b>Corticosteroids</b> e.g. dexamethasone	<b>Conditional recommendation:</b> Use dexamethasone 0.15 mg/kg/day to a maximum of 6 mg/day IV or orally for up to 10 days (or alternative regimen) in those receiving oxygen (including mechanically ventilated patients).	<b>CI:</b> Hypersensitivity to chosen corticosteroid or excipients  <b>Precautions:</b> Recent live vaccine immunisation; diabetes, some precautions may not apply given short-term use.	Start	Start or continue	Start or continue
<b>Tocilizumab</b> *Safety Alert <a href="#">001/21</a> : critical shortage. Single dose only recommended.	<b>Conditional recommendation:</b> Consider for children and adolescents requiring supplemental oxygen, particularly where there is evidence of systemic inflammation.	<b>CI:</b> Hypersensitivity to tocilizumab or excipients, Chinese hamster ovary cell products or other recombinant human or humanised antibodies; sepsis/active, severe infections from non-COVID-19 pathogens.  <b>Precautions:</b> Chronic/recurrent infections or pre-disposed to infections; immunosuppressive therapy; hepatic impairment; haematological disorder; current/history of intestinal ulceration or diverticulitis. Ensure appropriate chronic infection screening tests.	Start	Start	Start

NCCET= National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce.

For the Management of COVID-19 in hospitalised *Adults (excluding Pregnant or Breastfeeding Women) or Pregnant or Breastfeeding Women*, please visit the NSW TAG COVID-19 Resources webpage – [here](#)

#### Useful resources:

- National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce (NCCET): <https://covid19evidence.net.au/>
- Drug and Therapeutics Advisory Community of Practice (DaTA-CoP): NSW Health Interim guidance on the use of antiviral and immunomodulation therapy in COVID-19 – latest guidance [here](#)
- Safety Alert ([SA:001/21](#)): Critical disruption to the supply of tocilizumab (9 August 2021)
- CEC medication supply updates: <https://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/keep-patients-safe/medication-safety/medicine-updates>