

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

Management of COVID-19 in hospitalised adults (excluding pregnant or breastfeeding women)

HOSPITALISED ADULTS WITH COVID-19 (excludes pregnant or breastfeeding women)					
Medication	NCCET recommendation	Contraindications (CI) & Precautions Refer to drug guidelines for further detail re: contraindications, precautions & drug interactions.	Supplemental low or high flow oxygen	Non-invasive ventilation	Invasive mechanical ventilation (IMV)
Corticosteroids e.g. dexamethasone	Use dexamethasone 6 mg daily IV or orally for up to 10 days (or alternative regimen) in those receiving oxygen (including mechanically ventilated patients).	CI: Hypersensitivity to chosen corticosteroid or excipients Precautions: Recent live vaccine immunisation; diabetes, some precautions may not apply given short-term use.	Start	Start or continue	Start or continue
Remdesivir *Safety Notice 020/21 : disruption to supply. Recommended additional clinical criteria for use.	Conditional recommendation: Consider for adults with moderate to severe COVID-19 who do not require ventilation.	CI: Hypersensitivity to remdesivir or excipients Precautions: Renal impairment; hepatic impairment; multiorgan failure.	Start	Continue (Do not start)	Continue (Do not start)
Baricitinib	Conditional recommendation: Consider for adults requiring supplemental oxygen [^]	CI: Hypersensitivity to baricitinib or excipients. Precautions: Thrombosis; haematological toxicity; infection; gastrointestinal perforation; recent live vaccine immunisation; renal impairment; hepatic impairment. Ensure appropriate chronic infection screening tests.	Start	Start or continue	Start or continue [^]
Tocilizumab *Safety Alert 001/21 : critical shortage. Single dose only recommended. Use tocilizumab only if oral/NG route not available/ severe renal impairment/ ICU admission with IMV.	Conditional recommendation: Consider for adults requiring supplemental oxygen, particularly where there is evidence of systemic inflammation.	CI: 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. Precautions: 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 (if not possible to use baricitinib [®])	Start (if not possible to use baricitinib [®])	Start [®]

NCCET= National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce; IMV= Invasive mechanical ventilation

[®]Baricitinib and tocilizumab should not be used concurrently or sequentially.

[^] The [NCCET](#) expanded the indication for initiation to include those requiring invasive mechanical ventilation 29/10/21.

For the Management of COVID-19 in hospitalised *Pregnant or Breastfeeding Women* or *Children & Adolescents*, 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](#)
- CEC medication supply updates: <https://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/keep-patients-safe/medication-safety/medicine-updates>