

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	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
Corticosteroids e.g. dexamethasone	Conditional recommendation: 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).	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
Tocilizumab *Safety Alert 001/21 : critical shortage. Single dose only recommended.	Conditional recommendation: Consider for children and adolescents 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/recurring 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](#)
- CEC medication supply updates: <https://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/keep-patients-safe/medication-safety/medicine-updates>