



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

# COVID-19 Therapeutics Clinical Review Panel: terms of reference

The Department of Health and Social Care Therapeutics Clinical Review Panel will determine which at-risk patient cohorts could be eligible for COVID-19 therapies.

## [Current COVID-19 clinical policies](#)

The panel will provide advice on the definition and revision of eligible cohorts for new COVID-19 therapeutics. This will include a process to provide advice on questions from patient and clinician stakeholders, through a nominated clinician representing a group or individual.

The panel is formed of senior clinicians from all 4 nations and provides advice to the 4 UK Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) for agreement of the UK clinical policy.

## Panel remit

The panel will consider evidence from several sources, including these types of expert group:

- an immunology group looking at the highest risk patients (Chair: Professor Iain McInnes, University of Glasgow Professor of Medicine and Versus Arthritis Professor of Rheumatology)
- a modelling group to look at wider risk factors such as age, co-morbidity (Chair: Professor John Edmunds, Professor of Infectious Disease Modelling at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)
- clinical reference groups in NHSEI may advise on specific conditions (for example, pregnancy and learning disability)
- prophylaxis oversight group (Chair: Professor David Lalloo, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine)

The panel may also ask ad hoc sub-groups or individual experts for their input, as required.

The panel will take reports from these groups and produce simple, strategic recommendations to UK CMOs on patient cohorts for COVID-19 therapies:

1. at the following stages of the care pathway:
  - hospitalised due to COVID
  - hospital onset COVID (those in hospital for another reason that test positive)
  - non-hospitalised patients with COVID (including in the detained estate and non-acute hospital and care environments)
  - post-exposure prophylaxis
  - pre-exposure prophylaxis
2. to consider the inclusion of specific patient groups requested by clinicians or clinical speciality colleges and associations
3. to consider the inclusion of specific patient groups requested by patient stakeholder groups through a clinical lead
4. provide ad hoc advice to the UK CMOs, Antivirals and Therapeutics Taskforce (Department of Health and Social Care)

In considering the target patient groups the clinical panel will take into account:

1. the ability for digital identification of patients in the groups to support deployment
2. the impact of group definition on widening health inequalities
3. equity for children and older people

The group will need to make recommendations that align with the available supply of medicines, where relevant, and NHS capacity to provide treatment.