**Version 2.0 Paxlovid™ Prescribing Guidance Summary**
**for Community Settings as at 28.10.22**

Paxlovid™ is an oral antiviral that may be considered for patients with mild-moderate COVID-19 who are at risk of progressing to severe disease.

**Some points to note when considering Paxlovid™:**
- Given the lack of strong evidence GPs may wish not to prescribe Paxlovid™ or some patients may not want Paxlovid™ and this is a valid clinical management strategy.
- First dose is time-critical: Paxlovid™ must be administered within 5 days of symptom onset.
- Recent renal function result (eGFR) should be reviewed as a Paxlovid™ dose reduction is required if eGFR <60ml/min. Paxlovid™ should not be used if eGFR <30ml/min.
- A drug-drug interaction check should be performed prior to prescribing Paxlovid™ as several clinically relevant drug interactions require concomitant drug dose adjustment or contraindicate use of Paxlovid™.

**The following categories of people are eligible for consideration of use of Paxlovid™ for PCR or antigen-confirmed COVID-19 infection** (Tiers 1, 2, or 3 patients, Appendix 2, p 29 of Interim Guidance)
- Vaccinated patients (primary series completed with or without a booster) who are:
  - ❖ 75 years of age and older
  - ❖ 65 years of age and older who have: BMI >35 or diabetes mellitus or hypertension or cardiovascular disease or chronic lung disease or clinical risk factor condition not meeting full definition for inclusion in Tier 1
  - ❖ Immunocompromised (see Appendix 3, p30 of Interim Guidance)
- Unvaccinated patients (primary vaccination schedule not commenced or incomplete) ≥65 yrs
- Unvaccinated patients over 18 years of age who have: BMI >35 or diabetes mellitus or hypertension or cardiovascular disease or chronic lung disease or clinical risk factor condition not meeting full definition for inclusion in Tier 1

**The following categories of people are NOT eligible for Paxlovid™:**
- Signs or symptoms of severe COVID-19
- Certain interacting medications
- Requiring supplemental oxygen
- eGFR <30ml/min
- Severe liver disease
- Unable to swallow tablets

**Medication History**
A complete list of medications, including as required (prn), over the counter (OTC), herbal medicines and recreational drugs must be established. Supports available for drug-drug interaction checks:
- Pharmacist supplying medication to patient/resident
- University of Liverpool Drug Interaction Checker (https://www.covid19-druginteractions.org/) is a resource providing detailed guidance on identifying and managing Paxlovid™ interactions
- Summary of Product Characteristics for Paxlovid™ (Paxlovid SmPC)
- For more complex Paxlovid™ drug-drug interaction queries that cannot be answered using the above resources, GPs can email a completed template (NMIC referral template) to nmic@stjames.ie (and cc the community pharmacy). Note: contacting NMIC is not mandatory.

**Management**
- If a decision is made to prescribe Paxlovid™ after reviewing the eligibility criteria and a drug-drug interaction check has been performed, the prescription should be sent to the pharmacy:
  - ❖ eGFR ≥60mls/min: Paxlovid™ 300mg/100mg (3 tablets) every 12 hours for 5 days
  - ❖ eGFR 30ml/min – 59 ml/min: Paxlovid™ 150mg/100mg (2 tablets) every 12 hours for 5 days
  - ❖ Note if eGFR <30ml/min: Paxlovid™ should not be used
- The last pharmacy order is at 5pm. Paxlovid™ will arrive by 5pm the next day.
- Safety netting: patient/carer to contact GP/out of hours service or Emergency Department if there are any signs or symptoms of worsening of condition or adverse reactions to Paxlovid™.
- Follow public health recommendations to reduce the spread of virus

## Checklist for Paxlovid™ Prescribing:

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| 1. COVID PCR or Antigen positive | |
| 2. Eligibility criteria met | |
| 3. Within 5 days of symptom onset to drug administration | |
| 3. Check medication interactions | |
| 4. Dose guided by recent eGFR | |
| 5. Informed consent | |
| 6. Prescription sent to Pharmacy | |
| 7. Careful safety netting | |