Healthcare Improvement Scotland | SMC Advice on new medicines

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Collaborative Advice Document

SMC2552 | SMC2555 | SMC2557

nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir, sotrovimab and tocilizumab for treating COVID-19

A Multiple Technology Appraisal collaboration with NICE

29 March 2023 (last updated 01 May 2025)

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) collaborated with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) on *Multiple Technology Appraisal (MTA) TA878: nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir, sotrovimab and tocilizumab for treating COVID-19.* The collaboration includes an update to the recommendation for nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (published May 2025). Following the update to the MTA and subsequent review by the SMC Executive, SMC advice to NHS boards and Area Drug and Therapeutics Committees (ADTCs) on the use of the products, below, in NHSScotland is as follows:

ADVICE: following SMC collaboration with NICE on *TA878: nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir, sotrovimab and tocilizumab for treating COVID-19, including an update to the recommendation for nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (update published 01 May 2025).*

All products have been considered within their marketing authorisations for treating people with symptomatic coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and these recommendations are valid for NHSScotland.

The recommendations of *TA878*, based on clinical and cost effectiveness are:

SMC ID	Medicine(s)	Indication under review	SMC advice
SMC2557	**nirmatrelvir and ritonavir (Paxlovid®)** 150mg and 100mg film-coated tablets Pfizer Limited	Treatment of COVID-19 in adults who do not require supplemental oxygen and who are at increased risk for progression to severe COVID-19	**Accepted for restricted use within NHSScotland** Restriction: patients who have an increased risk for progression to severe COVID-19, as defined in section 5 of NICE final guidance

SMC2555	**sotrovimab (Xevudy®)** 500mg concentrate for solution for infusion GlaxoSmithKline UK	Treatment of symptomatic adults and adolescents (aged 12 years and over and weighing at least 40kg) with acute COVID-19 infection who do not require oxygen supplementation and who are at increased risk of progressing to severe COVID infection	**Accepted for restricted use within NHSScotland** Restriction: patients with increased risk for progression to severe COVID-19, as defined in section 5 of NICE final guidance, and nirmatrelvir and ritonavir is contraindicated or unsuitable
SMC2552	**tocilizumab (RoActemra®)** 20mg/mL concentrate for solution for infusion Roche Products Ltd	Treatment of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in adults who are receiving systemic corticosteroids and require supplemental oxygen or mechanical ventilation	**Accepted for use within NHSScotland**

Full details of the assessment and recommendations can be found at: https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta878.

This SMC advice takes account of the benefits of Patient Access Schemes (PAS) that improve the cost effectiveness of the following recommended treatments:

- sotrovimab (Xevudy®, GlaxoSmithKline UK) - advice applies only in the context of an approved NHSScotland PAS arrangement delivering the cost-effectiveness results upon which the decision was based, or a PAS/ list price that is equivalent or lower
- tocilizumab (RoActemra®, Roche Products Ltd) - advice applies only in the context of an approved NHSScotland PAS arrangement delivering the cost-effectiveness results upon which the decision was based, or a PAS/ list price that is equivalent or lower.

A budget impact template is provided in confidence to NHS boards to enable them to estimate the predicted budget for medicines accepted for use. An updated template has been issued (May 2025) to reflect the population now covered by the update to the recommendation for nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir.

Advice context:

No part of this advice may be used without the whole of the advice being quoted in full.

This advice represents the view of the Scottish Medicines Consortium and was arrived at following collaboration with NICE on MTA TA878: nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir, sotrovimab and tocilizumab for treating COVID-19 including an update to the recommendation for nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (update published 01 May 2025). It is provided to inform the considerations of Area Drug & Therapeutics Committees and NHS boards in Scotland in determining medicines for local use or local formulary inclusion. This advice does not override the individual responsibility of health professionals to make decisions in the exercise of their clinical judgement in the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Chair
Scottish Medicines Consortium

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