

# Pharmacy in Scotland: Best Practice case study

## Pharmacist prescribing of antivirals during Covid

During the Covid-19 pandemic, there was an urgent need to safely prescribe antivirals for patients with Covid-19 in the community who were at highest risk of progression to severe disease.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's acute based pharmacy team innovated at pace to introduce the antiviral prescribing service.

When a patient on the high-risk list for COVID tested positive, they received a text message, asking them to contact an Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) for clinical assessment.

The ANP then assessed eligibility before passing the patient to a pharmacist.

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*Pharmacists are uniquely skilled in assessing and managing drug interactions*

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The pharmacist then assessed the patient's suitability for Paxlovid (an antiviral medicine to treat coronavirus). This involved a consultation with the patient, including reviewing their current medication, other clinical conditions and health status. If appropriate, the pharmacist then prescribed Paxlovid for the patient and sent the prescription to the patient's community pharmacy for dispensing.

More than 135 pharmacists have been involved in the service, treating more than 2000 patients. At the height of the pandemic, pharmacists were reviewing and prescribing for up to 70 patients a day.

The feedback from patients who are often very anxious about their high-risk status and positive test result was excellent. Pharmacists are uniquely skilled in assessing and managing drug interactions making them ideal professionals to lead on this work.



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