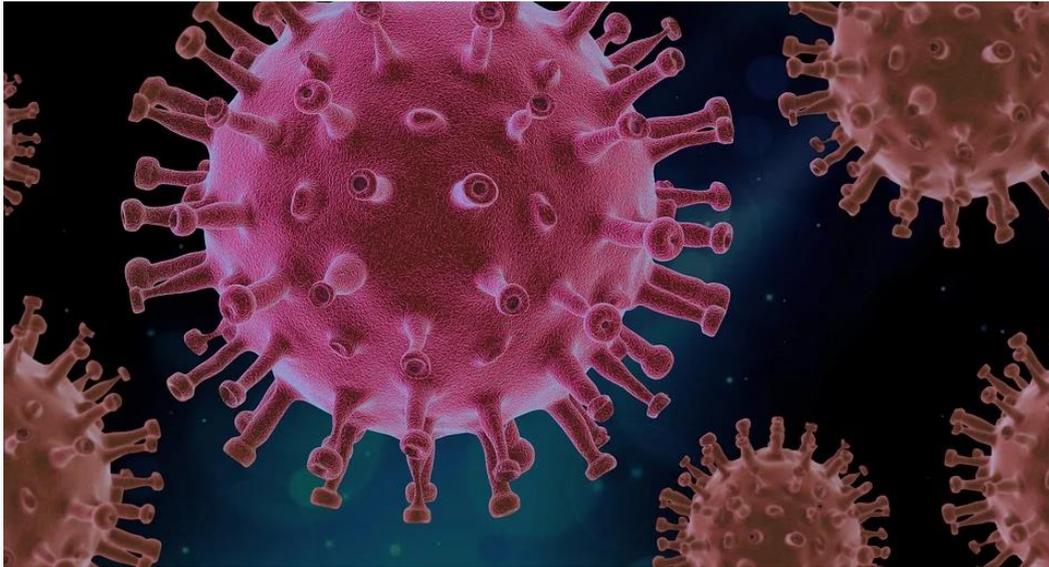


Special newsletter

28 September 2021

New drug Ronapreve for Covid patients announced



In a significant decision for all CLL patients, the Department of Health and Social Care has announced that the monoclonal antibody drug **Ronapreve** has been approved for administration to certain patients suffering from Covid-19 and who have tested negative for antibodies.

We think this is extremely good news for CLL patients and could be a real gamechanger in how Covid-19 is treated.

Information is still emerging, but the key points as we understand them currently are:

- Ronapreve is being rolled out across the UK and should be available in all hospitals now, or in the very near future. Guidance has been sent out to all clinicians.
- Initially, the key eligibility will be: immune compromised, no detectable antibody to Covid-19, and inpatient admission for Covid.

- This new Covid treatment, approved just last month, uses a pair of laboratory-made monoclonal antibodies (casirivimab and imdevimab) to attack the virus.
- It is administered to patients through a drip or subcutaneous injection. The drug works by binding to the virus' spike protein, stopping it from being able to infect the body's cells.
- The antibody cocktail has been shown in clinical trial to reduce both the length of hospital stays and the risk of death in people without antibodies.
- The new treatment is expensive and priority will be given to those patients at greatest risk of becoming severely ill, which is why, for now, only those without detectable antibodies are eligible.
- The government has said it had secured sufficient supply of the new therapeutic for eligible NHS patients across the four nations to cover the forthcoming winter.

Further monoclonal antibody treatments are likely to be approved over the coming months, which is excellent news for patients. We will keep you informed of any developments.

Note that this is a treatment for patients who have caught Covid-19, and is not a preventative, so all the usual measures should still be taken to avoid catching Covid-19.

If you do contract Covid-19 please contact your CLL team, who will be able to advise further.

You may want to think about asking your CLL team to check your Covid antibody level in advance so that, if you need to be admitted to hospital with Covid symptoms, vital time could be saved.