

# COVID-19 Care in the Community - Case Management in Pharmacy Operational Guide

March 2022

## Medication Management Consult: Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)

### **Eligibility Criteria**

Clients in COVID-19 mandatory isolation due to being COVID-19 positive, with a current or previous history of:

- Hypertension
- Coronary Artery Disease
- Arrhythmias
- Stroke
- DVT and PE

Referrals for this service may come from:

- Prescriber via email or phone or noted on prescription.
- Welfare or other agencies such as Tihei Mauri Ora and the local hubs who provide support.
- Health Hawke's Bay.
- General Practice.
- DHB services.

### **Background**

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a class of diseases that involve the heart or blood vessels. Patients with cardiac comorbidities, especially systemic hypertension, appear to be particularly susceptible to COVID-19 infection and these individuals are more likely to have a severe course of the disease. In addition, cardiovascular complications including thromboembolic events (e.g. DVT and PE), myocardial injury, myocarditis and arrhythmia are common and are associated with a poor prognosis.<sup>1</sup>

### **Specific medications**

General advice for medications:

It's important that all chronic medications such as aspirin, statins, anti-hypertensives and anticoagulants are continued as prescribed.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Nitrolingual spray**

- Advise to check expiry date if stock at home.
- Check understanding. 1 spray under the tongue, repeated once after 5 minutes; if symptom persist call 111.<sup>3</sup>

#### **[ACE-inhibitors/ Angiotensin-II Receptor Blockers](#) (ACEi/ARB)**

- No need to adjust medication or stop ACEi /ARBs unless clinically indicated (see information below)<sup>2</sup>
- Current evidence in relation to ACEi/ARB and Covid 19 is limited and prone to bias.<sup>2</sup>

If they have been prescribed Clexane<sup>4</sup>

- Review the patients understanding of injection technique. Refer them to <https://www.vtematters.co.nz/resources/clexane-video> for further guidance.
- A different site should be used for each injection.
- It should be stored below 25°C. Do not freeze. Keep the syringes in the pack until it is time to use them.

## Factors to discuss with your patient

If this happens...	...then do this
Shortness of breath with rapid or irregular heartbeat, pain or swelling in leg, worsening chest pain, fainting. <sup>1</sup> Facial drooping, arm weakness, speech difficulties <sup>1</sup>	Dial 111 and seek medical attention.
Patient has vomiting and diarrhoea or fever over 38 °C and sweating, reduced oral intake of fluids and nutrition.	<p>Advise the patient to increase fluid intake and give rehydration fluids where appropriate.</p> <p>See 'How to guide' SADMANS-DOG <b>No risk factors for AKI:</b> Stop NSAIDs Stop empagliflozin</p> <p><b>Risk factors for AKI – NOT for Heart failure patients</b> (see 'How to' guide Heart Failure): Stop ACE-I, ARB Stop diuretics Stop metformin Stop NSAIDs Stop empagliflozin Medicines can be restarted 48 hours after feeling better and eating and drinking normally.</p> <p>Continue <a href="#">anticoagulants</a> and <a href="#">antiplatelets</a>. Discuss signs and symptoms of bleeding and to contact GP immediately if concerned. Alternatively, pharmacist to contact GP using ISBAR framework.</p>
Patient has increasing symptoms of dehydration, such as sunken skin, confusion, low blood pressure, rapid heartbeat, rapid breathing, little or no urination.	Advise the patient to contact GP. Alternatively send an ISBAR to the GP.

### Tools available:

- <https://www.escardio.org/Education/COVID-19-and-Cardiology>
- <https://www.heartfoundation.org.nz/wellbeing/covid-19/covid-19-and-heart-disease>
- [ISBAR communication framework between health care workers.](#)

### References:

1. Covid-19 and Cardiology [Internet]. European Society of Cardiology. [cited 2022 Feb 14]. Available from: <https://www.escardio.org/Education/COVID-19-and-Cardiology>
2. DynaMed [Internet]. Ipswich (MA): EBSCO Information Services. 1995. Record No. T1585600911677, COVID-19 and Cardiovascular Disease Patients; [updated 2020 Apr 17, cited 2022 Feb 14]. Available from <https://www.dynamed.com/condition/covid-19-and-cardiovascular-disease-patients>
3. New Zealand Formulary (NZF). NZF v[116]. [2022]. Available from: [https://nzf.org.nz/nzf\\_1324](https://nzf.org.nz/nzf_1324) (Accessed February, 2022)
4. Clexane and Clexane Forte [Internet]. Medsafe.govt.nz. 2020 [cited 15 February 2022]. Available from: <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/consumers/cmi/c/clexane.pdf>

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