

Pax Facts: A Novel Statewide Paxlovid® Pharmacy Service

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Can you believe...

All Tasmanian Paxlovid® requests received a comprehensive pharmacy review in March and April. 33% of these resulted in a recommendation for an alternative therapy.

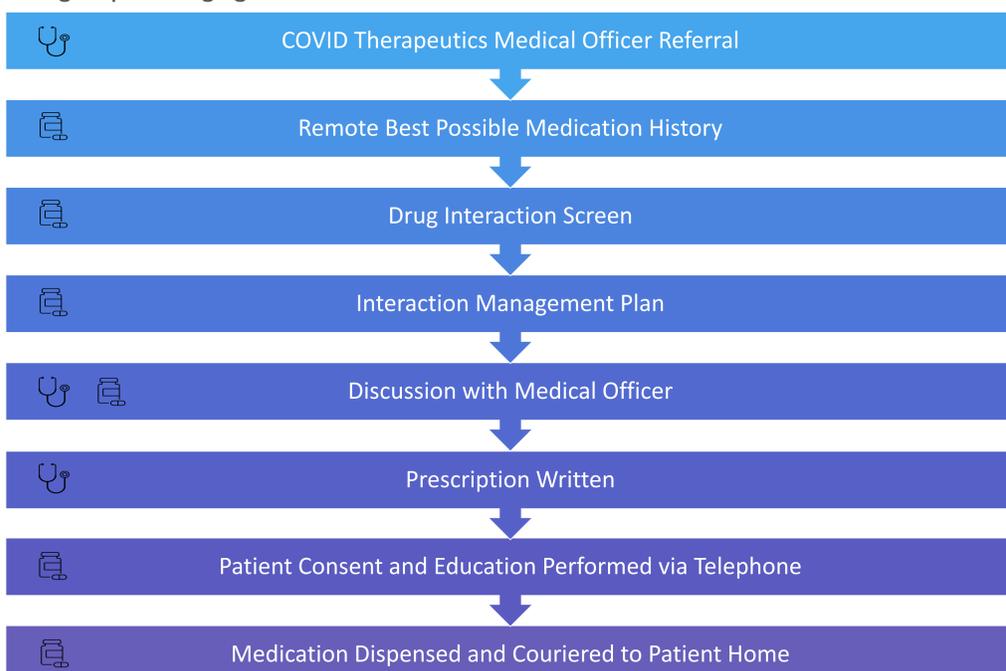
Introduction

The novel COVID-19 antiviral Paxlovid® received 'Provisional Registration' from the TGA for use in Australia on January 18, 2022. Stock arrived into Tasmania as part of the National Medical Stockpile (NMS) on February 5. **Paxlovid® interacts with many medications** and is primarily indicated to prevent hospitalisations. As an NMS therapy, **Public Hospitals would take responsibility for supply to patients in the community, without immediate access to medical histories.** In the 18 days between TGA registration and stock arriving, a **model was developed to support safe prescribing and use of Paxlovid®** throughout Statewide Hospital Pharmacy (SHP), Tasmania.

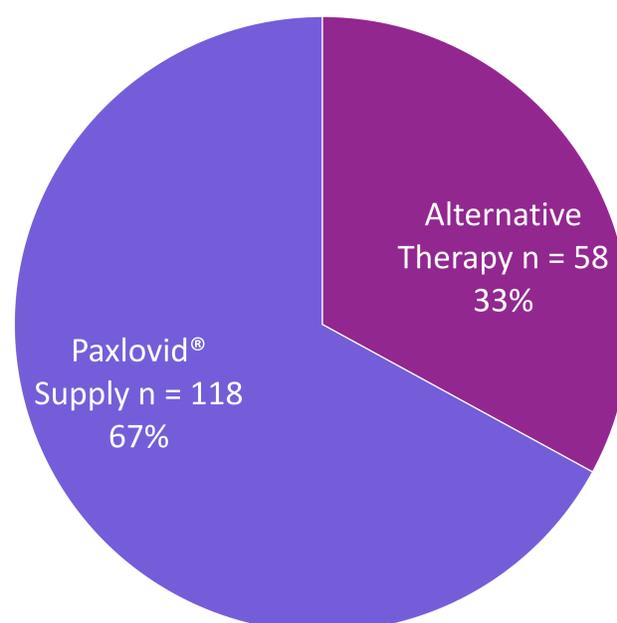
Objective and Action

A comprehensive pharmacy service enabling the safe provision of Paxlovid® anywhere in Tasmania was developed. This included: obtaining Best Possible Medication Histories (BPMH), performing interaction checks and management, providing advice to prescribers around choice of therapy, providing counselling and written summaries to patients and coordinating couriers to patients. This service would also act as the liaison point for Infectious Disease physicians and Covid@Home management teams.

Key stakeholder consultation was held to identify the needs of the service. A proposal was approved for a **7 day per week service**; staffed through existing hospital pharmacists supported by casual staff. A triage system was developed, and the service operated through shared email accounts, a centralised phone number and group messaging.



Paxlovid® Pharmacy Service Referrals



Evaluation

The **PPS successfully reviewed every request for Paxlovid® within Tasmania between February 28 and April 30.** This peaked at 43 Reviews per week at the end of March. In total this service resulted in supply of Paxlovid® to 39 patients in the northern region of the state, 16 patients in the north-western region and 63 patients in the southern region. In 58 patients the review resulted in a recommendation for an alternative therapy.

Discussion

The PPS ensured that every patient prescribed Paxlovid® in Tasmania, regardless of location or remoteness, received a comprehensive BPMH as part of their supply of Paxlovid® through a remote telehealth service. The service also **advised prescribers on the safety of prescribing Paxlovid® and provided recommendations around alternative therapies.** After the PBS listing of Paxlovid® on the 1st of May, the PPS team provided an online **education session accessible to all Tasmanian community pharmacies** to ensure safe handover of management of Paxlovid®. The PPS is now a **template for SHP support in the development of Tasmania's future virtual health care services.**

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