

1-6-22 Clinical Update

Most of you, I'm sure, sat in on the CMS Stakeholder's call on 1-5-22. They had multiple presenters discussing COVID-19, with a focus on current boosters and therapeutics. A presenter from AMDA PALTC presenting on how to get physicians on board with ordering therapeutics in a timely manner. There are currently two primary therapeutics available, but the timeliness of beginning treatment is vital, so the recommendation is that each facility has a plan before it is needed. The facility will have to work closely with the pharmacy to ensure availability of the therapeutic or apply to become a provider. That process and application is available on the CDC website.

Paxlovid is an oral treatment that should be started within 5 days of symptoms and should be administered BID for 5 days and Remdesivir is administered IV daily. There is no cost to the facility or the resident for administration of these therapeutic drugs. These drugs will save lives.

The physician from AMDA talked about the AMDA toolkit. Here is the link to that toolkit:

https://paltc.org/sites/default/files/Vax%20and%20Pax%20toolkit_1_4_23_Revised.pdf

The toolkit has been revised as recently as January 4, 2023, so they are keeping it very current. It would be very advisable to print this off for your practitioners. There is also a Q&A tool that would be helpful when you are talking to residents and family members about administration of the most current Bivalent booster. Currently only 48.7% of nursing home residents have received the booster while at the same time, the US is seeing significant spikes in COVID rates in every state.

The toolkit is an excellent tool to add to your "arsenal" in working with residents, staff, practitioners and family members to. I encourage you to check out the link and get your plan implemented.