

2022 Best Research Poster Award

Healthcare Worker Access to COVID-19 Antiviral: Molnupiravir



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INTRODUCTION

- Molnupiravir is an oral antiviral shown to reduce COVID-19 severity, and is available in Australia for treatment of mild-moderate COVID-19
- For people < 70 years, it is only available on PBS when risk factors for severe disease are present, hence the majority of healthcare workers do not qualify
- Currently, Australian Health services are under considerable strain due to COVID-related staff shortages

OBJECTIVES

- To determine uptake, tolerability and effect on duration of illness, and the rate of staff returning to work after isolation period complete
- To determine the result of a Day 5 RAT for patients who completed antiviral therapy
- To measure further infections in the household after starting antiviral treatment

METHOD

- Prospective voluntary program commenced Monday 20th June 2022, and continued until 40 courses of Molnupiravir funded by Victorian Department of Health were dispensed
- Recruitment via invitation when staff inform their managers of their COVID-19 positive status
- Appointments made via StaffCare (Mon-Fri) or Infectious Diseases registrar on call (Sat-Sun)
- Follow-up survey (online or by phone D14 post treatment)

Inclusion criteria: age >18, staff member of UHG, COVID-19 (RAT or PCR confirmed) within 5 days of symptom onset

Exclusion criteria: women who are pregnant or breastfeeding, anyone unable to use contraception for the specified period, people who are PBS eligible for antiviral therapy

Table 1: Demographics

	Number	Percentage (Total = 39)
Age (years)	21-69	Mean: 43
Female	29	74%
≥1 Comorbidity	10	26%
	Hypertension	5
	Ischaemic Heart Disease	1
	Asthma	4
	Impaired glucose tolerance/ diabetes mellitus	2
	Polycystic ovarian syndrome	1
Day of illness	0-4	Median: 1
Occupation		
	Doctor	8 21%
	Nurse	22 56%
	Patient service assistant	2 5%
	Allied health	3 8%
	Administration	2 5%
	Other	2 5%

DISCUSSION

- Molnupiravir appears to be well tolerated, with adverse event rates similar to those seen in clinical trials
- Acceptance rates were high amongst Barwon Health Staff
- Molnupiravir appears effective in reducing severity of illness, with 89% of people who received treatment on D0-1 of illness being asymptomatic by Day 7
- Molnupiravir effective in reducing viral loads with 71% of people having a negative RAT on their final day of treatment
- Onward transmission rate within a household appears low when taking antiviral therapy
- More than 75% of people were able to return to work at the end of their isolation period, with many reporting they felt ready earlier
- Staff reported high rates of satisfaction, having had access to

Table 2: Primary Endpoints

	Number	Percentage (Total = 39)
No. of people with issues accessing the drug	0	0%
No. of people who completed the course	38	97%
No. of people who had further transmission in the household (Total = 34 – participants with other people in the house)	9	26%
	<48hrs after commencing treatment*	5 15%
	>48hrs after commencing treatment*	2 6%
No. of people who performed day 5 RAT	34	87%
No. of people who had a NEGATIVE day 5 RAT	24	71%
No. of people who were fit to return to work by day 7	30	77%

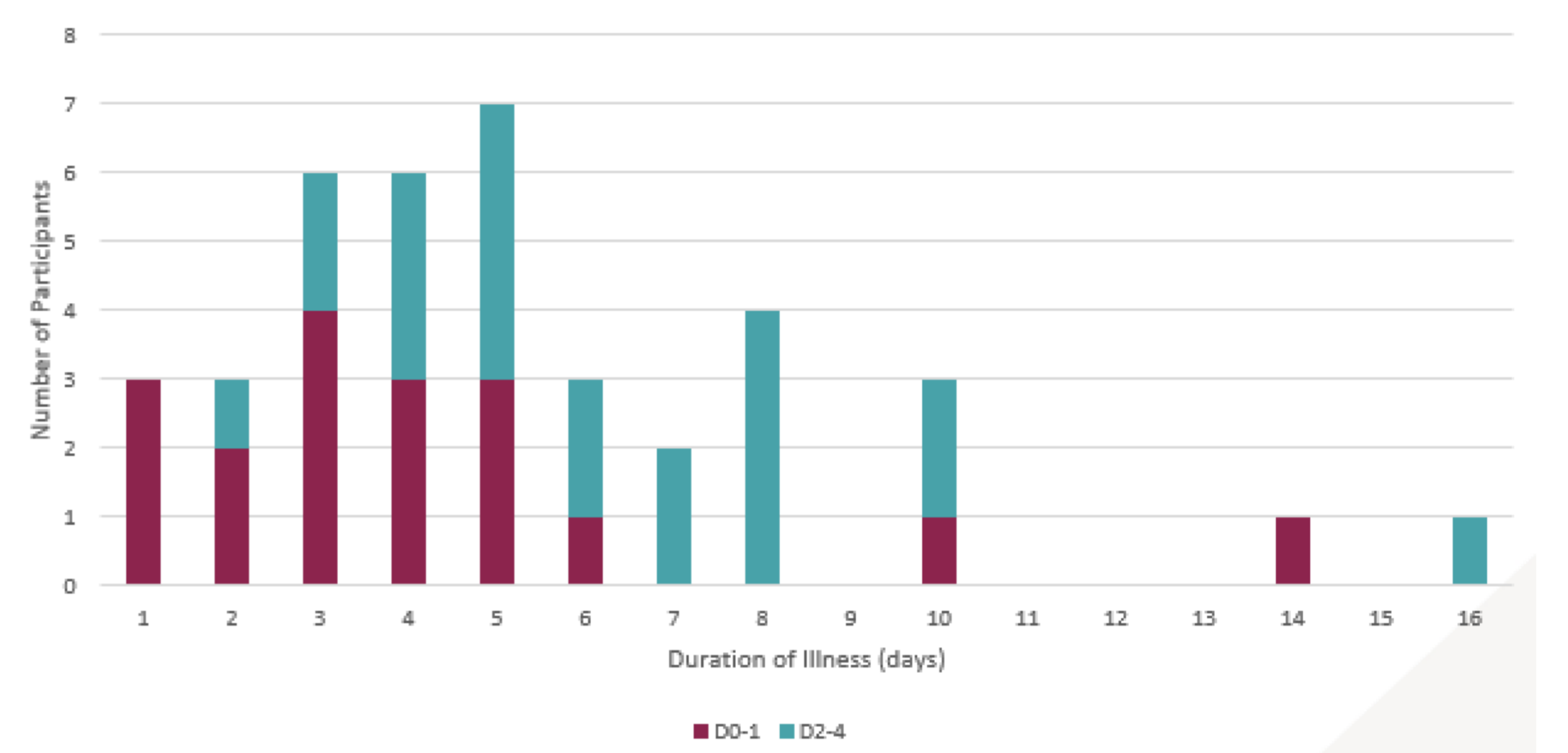


Figure 1: Duration of Illness by Day of Antiviral Prescription

Figure 2: Adverse Events

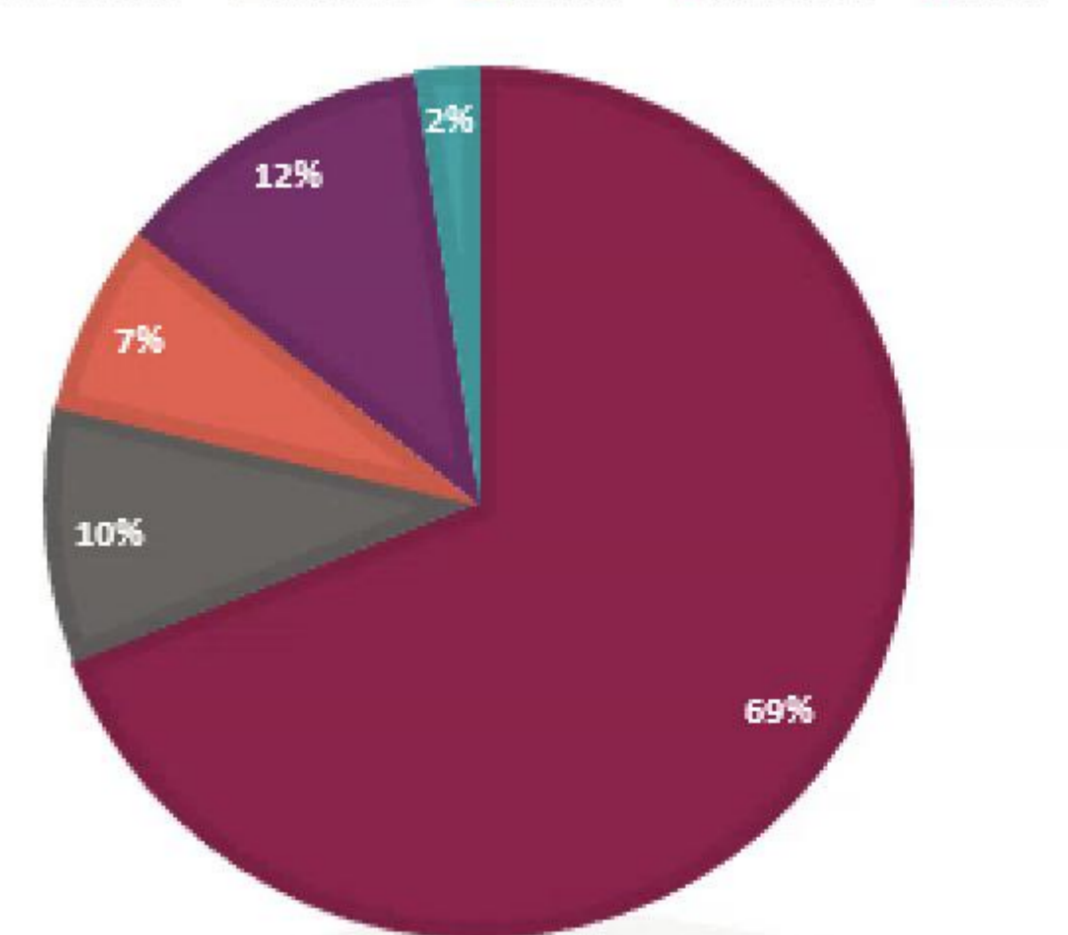


Figure 2: Adverse Events

Table 3: Rate of Negative RAT and Symptom Resolution

	No. RAT Negative*	%	No. Asymptomatic at Day-5 [#]	%	No. RAT Negative and Asymptomatic at Day-5 [^]	% (Total = 34, D0-1=15, D2-4=19)	% (Total = 39, D0-1=18, D2-4=21)
D0-1	12	80%	15	83%	9	60%	50%
D2-4	12	63%	10	48%	7	37%	33%
Total	24	71%	25	64%	16	47%	41%

*No. of people who performed a RAT on Day-5: Total = 34, D0-1 = 15, D2-4 = 19

[#]No. of people who were asymptomatic: Total population = 39, D0-1 = 18, D2-4 = 21

[^]No. of people whose illness duration was ≤5 days = 25, D0-1 = 15, D2-4 = 10

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