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Australia secures access to two additional COVID-19 treatments

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Secures access to COVID-19 antibody-based therapy Ronapreve by Roche and Pfizer's COVID-19 oral antiviral drug



The Australian government has secured access to two additional COVID-19 treatments to support the National Plan to Transition Australia's COVID-19 response, following expert medical advice.

Under a new management with Roche Products, Australia will be supplied with 15,000 doses of the COVID-19 antibody-based therapy, Ronapreve.

Ronapreve is a combination of two monoclonal antibodies – casirivimab and imdevimab. It is designed to block infectivity of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

First supply of this treatment is expected to be available by the end of this month through an initial shipment of 5,000 doses and will be held in the National Medical Stockpile.

Use of this treatment will occur in line with the regulatory approval by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and advice from the National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce.

In addition, the Australian government has secured access to 500,000 treatment courses of Pfizer's COVID-19 oral antiviral drug, to be used in combination with the protease inhibitor drug ritonavir, subject to regulatory approval by the TGA.

This treatment which is still undergoing clinical trials is expected to help to reduce the severity or onset of illness in adults who contract, or have been exposed to, COVID-19. It is expected to be available over the course of 2022.