

15 June 2023

## **Request for Principal Investigators and local research teams to continue supporting RECOVERY to complete the remaining two treatment evaluations**

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for your hard work on the RECOVERY trial over the past three years. Due to your efforts, we have produced clear evidence on the effectiveness of twelve potential COVID-19 treatments. This has informed clinical practice worldwide and prevented many hundreds of thousands of deaths.

SARS-COV-2 has now moved from a pandemic to an endemic phase, and it is clear that the virus will be with us for the foreseeable future. Its impact has reduced greatly since 2020-21, but unfortunately it remains a significant public health problem, of comparable importance to other major causes of death (and with the added potential to cause disruptive epidemics). **In the past six months, COVID-19 has still been killing an average of 82 people per day in the UK**, not including those who died with incidental infection.<sup>1</sup> Now that the pandemic phase has subsided, this burden has shifted even more towards those who are most vulnerable because of age or comorbidity.

Funding for the RECOVERY COVID-19 evaluations in the UK will currently end on 30th November 2023, and the protocol has been simplified recently to focus on just two promising treatments:

- i) Sotrovimab in all hospitalised patients (1561 recruited so far)
- ii) Higher-dose corticosteroids in patients requiring ventilatory support (465 recruited so far)

To produce reliable answers for these treatments, we need to randomise 2-3 times more patients than we have so far. Whilst some sites are still successfully recruiting 1-2 patients per week, these are the minority and competing research priorities have meant that many sites are now largely or wholly inactive in RECOVERY. Although the pandemic has receded, the priority attached to COVID-19 research has fallen too far, and no longer reflects its current importance in the UK, the threat a resurgence may pose in the future, and the ongoing areas of therapeutic uncertainty.

We are, therefore, asking that you consider setting a target of 1 or more patients recruited to RECOVERY per week up until end of November. This would allow us to provide clear answers for sotrovimab and higher-dose corticosteroids.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/deaths>

# RECOVERY

Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 Therapy

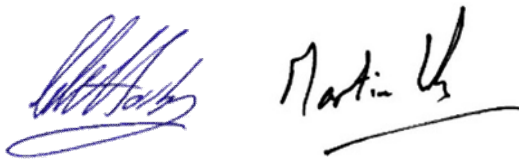
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Email: [recoverytrial@ndph.ox.ac.uk](mailto:recoverytrial@ndph.ox.ac.uk)

Please contact the trial team if they can help with any practical issues, such as transferring PI responsibilities or arranging supplies of sotrovimab, at [recoverytrial@ndph.ox.ac.uk](mailto:recoverytrial@ndph.ox.ac.uk).

We hope that this is something you will consider at your site, and look forward to having more results to share with you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,



**Professor Sir Peter Horby and Professor Sir Martin Landray**  
*RECOVERY Trial Chief Investigators*

**The last few recruits would be incredibly helpful so I support any help you can offer to the Recovery team.**



**Professor Tony De Soyza**  
*National Specialty Lead for Respiratory Disorders, NIHR CRN*



**Professor Andrew Ustianowski**  
*National Specialty Lead for Infection, NIHR CRN*