Subject [if sent by email]: CanTreatCOVID and your patients

Dear [provider name],

I am writing to invite you to participate in a research study taking place at the University of Toronto Practice Based Research Network. This adaptive platform trial (APT), called the **Canadian Adaptive Platform Trial of Treatments for COVID in Community Settings** (**CanTreatCOVID**) aims to evaluate the clinical and cost-effectiveness, practical challenges, and outcomes of treatments for mild to moderate COVID-19 among non-hospitalized patients in Canada. The trial will also study the comparative effectiveness of included medications in reducing long COVID among patients and look at whether outcomes differ by risk, vaccination status, and across diverse populations.

We will be involving ~12,000 patients from across Canada. Your participation in this trial would involve giving permission for study staff to access your Electronic Medical Records to prepare a list of your patients who are aged 50+ or 18-49 with 1 or more chronic high-risk medical condition(s) and/or immunosuppression. After your review, these patients would then be sent a letter, and rapid antigen test if necessary, on your behalf informing them of the study and how to get in touch with the study team if infected with COVID-19 and interested in participating in the trial.

CanTreatCOVID has been approved by Health Canada and the Unity Health Toronto Research Ethics Board.

Please let us know if you are interested in supporting this recruitment strategy for CanTreatCOVID. You may confirm by emailing [insert name], the research coordinator for this study at [insert email], or by signing the form below and returning to [insert address]. Additional information can be found in the attached FAQ or by visiting [www.CanTreatCOVID.org](http://www.CanTreatCOVID.org).

Thank you for considering this important study,

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| --- |
| **Andrew Pinto, MD CCFP FRCP MSc** |
| Staff Physician and Scientist |
| Department of Family and Community Medicine |
| St. Michael’s Hospital |
| Principal Investigator, CanTreatCOVID Study |

 Yes, I would like to take part in this study!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email Contact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Canadian Adaptive Platform Trial of Treatments for COVID in Community Settings** (**CanTreatCOVID**)

**What is the CanTreatCOVID study?**

Vaccines and public health measures such as masking have reduced the impact of COVID-19 and prevented health systems from being overwhelmed. However, reduced vaccine effectiveness against new variants and reduced vaccine effectiveness against future strains remains a significant concern. Most antiviral treatments currently approved in Canada require IV infusion, are expensive, and are usually only administered to patients who are hospitalized or in specialized clinics. More and more patients, including those at high risk of becoming severely ill, choose to seek care in community settings, however current evidence supporting therapeutics that can be administered to patients with mild to moderate infection is weak and has several limitations. Effective, safe, convenient, affordable, and evidence-based therapeutics that can be used in communities with high vaccination rates to limit the severity of COVID-19 infection, reduce hospitalizations, and reduce short- and long-term symptoms remain urgently needed.

Adaptive platform trials (APTs) can compare multiple treatments for a disease while allowing new trial arms to be added or removed as the trial progresses. CanTreatCOVID will compare the effectiveness of up to three therapeutics amongst each other and to usual care (i.e., supportive care and symptom relief). Therapeutics to be evaluated in the trial will be determined by a transparent Canadian COVID-19 Out-Patient Therapeutics Committee based on interim findings, any newly published data from Canadian or international trials, and integration of results from international trials.

The purpose of this study is to:

1. Establish an APT aimed at evaluating the effectiveness (including comparative clinical and cost-effectiveness), practical challenges, and outcomes of therapeutics for COVID-19 among non-hospitalized patients in Canada, engaging a variety of healthcare settings.
2. Generate evidence on treatment effectiveness and outreach to communities made vulnerable by social and economic policies, particularly those historically excluded from research.
3. Provide rapid evidence to inform clinical and health system management and public health leaders, decision-makers, and planners within Canada and internationally.

**Who would be eligible for this study?**

Patients who are 50+ or 18-49 with 1 or more chronic high-risk medical condition(s) and/or immunosuppression. Participants must have a positive COVID-19 (PCR or RAT) test and be enrolled within 5 days of symptom onset.

**Are these medications offered to patients outside of the study?**

Current Canadian guidelines identify only fluvoxamine, budesonide, and PaxlovidTM as potential out-patient therapeutics for COVID-19. Three major problems are faced by clinicians, patients, decision makers, and public health leaders:

1. Almost all published trials have included only unvaccinated patients. It is unclear whether and to what extent existing therapeutics are effective in partially or fully vaccinated patients, or among those with prior infection.
2. Therapeutics have not been compared to one another, and the comparative effectiveness, safety, and cost-effectiveness has not been established.
3. Currently, no therapeutic has been evaluated specifically for its potential in reducing the likelihood of long COVID.

**What is the time commitment required from you?**

One 30-60 min meeting (depending on size of your patient list) with study staff to review your patient list for potential participants.

**Who is conducting the research study?**

This study is led by Dr. Andrew Pinto, the founder and director of the [Upstream Lab](https://upstreamlab.org/). He is a public health and preventive medicine specialist and family physician at St. Michael’s Hospital (SMH) and a Scientist at the MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions at SMH. Dr. Pinto is an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, appointed to the Department of Family and Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and has status appointments at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Institute for Health, Policy, Management and Evaluation. He serves as the Associate Director for Clinical Research at the University of Toronto Practice-Based Research Network.

**I’m interested! How do I take part?**

If you’re interested in sharing information about this trial with your patients, simply email [insert name] at [insert email],or sign the above form and return to [insert address]. We will then be in touch to set up an initial meeting with you.

**Additional questions?**

Please contact [insert name] at [insert email] or visit [www.CanTreatCOVID.org](http://www.CanTreatCOVID.org).