WHAT DID THE REVIEW FIND?

- Systemic corticosteroids reduced mortality at Day 28 in critically ill patients.
- In hospitalised patients not requiring respiratory support, there was no evidence of benefit, and a possibility of harms.
- Systemic corticosteroids may also be considered in patients with COVID-19 diagnosed with septic shock.
- No studies have, as yet, reported on the use of corticosteroids in children with severe COVID-19.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Corticosteroids reduced mortality
- Serious adverse event definitions varied between the trials so formal meta-analysis of these data was not performed.
- It is not yet clear when to initiate corticosteroids treatment
- Evidence of the value of corticosteroids in the treatment of children and HIV-infected patients remains limited

RECOMMENDATION

The trials were moderate quality and the benefits of corticosteroids outweigh the risks.

NEML MAC recommends the use of corticosteroids in hospitalised patients with severe COVID-19 who require supplemental oxygen.