

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET
PAXLOVID™ (Nirmatrelvir/Ritonavir)

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by coronavirus, which can be transmitted via close contact with another infected person. COVID-19 illnesses can be very mild to severe, and may lead to deaths. Despite current evidence shows that most COVID-19 cases are mild, serious illnesses may develop and potentially worsen your medical conditions. The risk of hospitalization due to COVID-19 in elderly and all age groups with severe chronic medical conditions including cardiovascular disease, pulmonary disease and diabetes mellitus is higher.

What is Paxlovid?

Paxlovid is a medication under investigation and has been approved by the FDA for emergency use in adult and paediatric (over 12 years old and weighing at least 40 kg) patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19, as well as in patients at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death. Data regarding safety and efficacy of using Paxlovid for treating mild-to-moderate COVID-19 patients is limited as Paxlovid is still being studied.

Before taking Paxlovid, what should I tell my healthcare professionals?

Please inform your healthcare professionals if you:

- Have any allergies
- Have liver or kidney disease
- Are pregnant / plan to become pregnant
- Are breastfeeding / plan to breastfeed
- Have any serious illnesses

Please let your healthcare professionals know if you are using any medications, including prescription and over-the-counter medications, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some medications may interact with Paxlovid and may cause serious side effects. Do NOT start taking any new medication(s) before consulting a healthcare professional.

If you are currently on combined oral contraceptives, please notify your healthcare professionals because Paxlovid may interfere with oral contraceptives. Women who are at childbearing ages should use other reliable contraceptive measures or an additional barrier method. Discuss with your healthcare professionals if you are in doubt.

How should I take Paxlovid?

- Paxlovid contains 2 medications, namely nirmatrelvir and ritonavir.
- Take 2 pink tablets of nirmatrelvir and 1 white tablet of ritonavir together twice a day every 12 hours (i.e. morning and evening) for 5 days.

- If you have kidney disease, talk to your healthcare professional. You may need a different dose.
- Swallow the tablets whole. Do NOT chew, break or crush the tablets.
- Take Paxlovid with or without food.
- Continuously take Paxlovid for 5 days. Even if you feel better, do NOT stop taking the medication.
- If you miss a dose:
 - If you miss a dose within 8 hours from the scheduled time, take Paxlovid immediately.
 - If you miss a dose more than 8 hours from the scheduled time, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at the next scheduled time. Do NOT double the dose.
- If you take too much Paxlovid, inform your healthcare professionals immediately or visit the nearest emergency department.
- If you are taking ritonavir or cobicistat for hepatitis C or HIV, you should continue taking the medications as directed.
- Consult your healthcare professionals if you do not feel better or if you feel worse after 5 days of Paxlovid treatment.

Who should not take Paxlovid?

Do NOT take Paxlovid if you:

- Are allergic to nirmatrelvir, ritonavir or any components in Paxlovid.
- Are using any of the following medications:
 - Alfuzosin
 - Pethidine, propoxyphene, piroxicam
 - Ranolazine
 - Amiodarone, dronedarone, flecainide, propafenone, quinidine
 - Colchicine
 - Lurasidone, pimozide, clozapine
 - Dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, methylergonovine
 - Lovastatin, simvastatin
 - Sildenafil (Revatio®) for pulmonary arterial hypertension
 - Triazolam, oral midazolam
 - Apalutamide
 - Carbamazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin
 - Rifampin
 - St. John's Wort (*hypericum perforatum*)

Taking the above medications together with Paxlovid may lead to serious or life-threatening side effects, or affect the efficacy of Paxlovid.

The above medication list is not exhaustive and there may be other medications that may cause serious side effects when taken in combination with Paxlovid. Paxlovid may increase or decrease the levels of other medications. Extra testing or dosage adjustments may be required, therefore it is very important to let your healthcare professionals know your current medications. Your healthcare

professionals may tell you the symptoms to watch out for, that may indicate that you need to stop or reduce the dosage of some of your medications.

What are the possible side effects of Paxlovid?

- Hypersensitivity reactions
 - Allergic reactions may arise even with only one dose of Paxlovid. If the following symptoms appear, stop taking Paxlovid and inform your healthcare professionals right away:
 - Urticaria or skin rash
 - Swallowing or breathing difficulties
 - Swelling of the mouth, lips or face
 - Throat tightness
 - Hoarseness of voice
- Liver problems
 - If you have any signs and symptoms of liver problems including loss of appetite, yellowing of skin and whites of the eyes (jaundice), dark urine, pale stool, skin itchiness and abdominal pain, notify your healthcare professionals immediately.
- Resistance to HIV medications
 - If you have untreated HIV infection, Paxlovid may reduce the effectiveness of some HIV medications which may be used in the future.

Other possible side effects include:

- Altered sense of taste
- Diarrhoea
- High blood pressure
- Muscle pain

These are not all the possible side effects of Paxlovid. Not many people have taken Paxlovid and there are chances that other serious and unexpected side effects may happen. Paxlovid is still being studied so not all risks are known yet.

What if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

There is currently no relevant data for using Paxlovid in pregnancy or breastfeeding.

The benefit of taking Paxlovid may be greater than the risk for a mother and unborn baby. If you are pregnant, discuss with your healthcare professionals about your conditions and choices. Generally speaking, when you are taking Paxlovid, use reliable and effective barrier contraceptive measures or avoid sexual activity.

If you are breastfeeding, discuss your specific situation and options with your healthcare professionals.

What are my other treatment options?

There are other possible approved therapeutic management for treating COVID-19. If you need more information about your treatment options, please consult your healthcare professionals. Taking Paxlovid or not is your personal choice. Your standard treatment will not be affected if you decide not to take Paxlovid.

How should I report side effects associated with Paxlovid?

Contact your healthcare professionals if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

How should I store Paxlovid?

Store Paxlovid tablets at room temperature between 20°C to 25°C.

Reference: Fact Sheet For Healthcare Providers: Emergency Use Authorization For Paxlovid™

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