

A REFERENCE GUIDE

UPDATED AUGUST 22, 2022

PAXLOVID™ DISPENSING

Note: information about Paxlovid™ will evolve quickly and frequently. Please be sure to reference the most up-to-date materials.

KEY MESSAGES

- All Alberta pharmacies are eligible to dispense Paxlovid™ as of April 1.
- Paxlovid™ is available to eligible Albertans as of January 31. A positive COVID-19 PCR test is required as part of eligibility.
- Albertans who meet the eligibility criteria can call Health Link at 1-844-343-0971. Health Link staff will ask screening questions and refer Albertans to a health professional to confirm eligibility and arrange next steps for getting the most appropriate COVID-19 treatment for them.
- The product monograph for Paxlovid™ has been posted on the Health Canada website at [covid-vaccine.canada.ca/info/paxlovid-en.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/covid-19/vaccines/paxlovid-en.html). Pharmacy teams should review this information as soon as possible.
- Paxlovid™ has many drug interactions and medical contraindications that pharmacists must be aware of. Pharmacists must assess each Paxlovid™ prescription against these drug interactions and medical contraindications.

Pharmacy compensation

As of April 1, pharmacies will be compensated \$22.15 for each treatment course they dispense to an Albertan. This fee includes the existing dispensing fee of \$12.15 in addition to a fee of \$10 for distribution charges.

As there is no cost for acquisition of these drug products, there will be no further upcharges applied. Any additional costs for providing these drugs, such as delivery fees, are not to be passed on to the patient. Patients will receive these drug products at no cost.

For direct bill claiming to Alberta Blue Cross®, please reference the following data elements:

- carrier code 16 (as the third-party plan);
- group number for all transactions must be 23464, Section 000;
- pharmacy license number;
- pharmacist license number;
- client number is the client's Personal Health Number (PHN)—if the individual does not have a valid PHN or is not a resident of Alberta, use pseudo-PHN CV00000000;
- client's full name—last and first name;
- client's date of birth;
- client's gender;
- relationship code—should your software require you to enter a relationship code, zero (0) must be used as the default;
- prescriber reference ID number—prescriber license number;
- prescriber reference code;
- service date;
- DIN
 - 02524031—pack size 30 for full course
 - 02527804—pack size 20 for reduced course
- quantity is based on unit of issue tablet—quantity submitted must be 30 for a full course of treatment or 20 for a reduced dosage treatment course for patient with renal impairment;

continued next page

- Special Service Code (SSC)—blank;
- days' supply;
- drug cost—\$0;
- allowable upcharge #2—\$0; and
- dispensing fee—up to a maximum of \$22.15.

Paxlovid™ ordering

Pharmacies can order Paxlovid™ via their primary pharmacy wholesale distributor. Quantity will be limited to one course of treatment per order placed. Pharmacy teams are asked to order only the minimum amount to meet demand in their community.

Paxlovid™ product information

The product monograph has been posted on the Health Canada website at [covid-vaccine.canada.ca/info/paxlovid-en.html](https://www.covid-vaccine.canada.ca/info/paxlovid-en.html). Pharmacy teams should review this information as soon as possible.

- Paxlovid™ is a combination of two antiviral drugs—nirmatrelvir and ritonavir—for early treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in adults who are at high risk of progressing to serious disease, including hospitalization or death.
- DIN 02524031 consists of two sets of tablets (total of three tablets per dose) taken orally, twice a day for five days.
- DIN 02527804 consists of two sets of tablets (total of two tablets per dose for individuals with moderate renal impairment with an eGFR of 30 to 59 mL/min) taken orally, twice a day for five days.
- Treatment must start within five days of symptoms appearing to be effective.

Paxlovid™ has many drug interactions and medical contraindications that pharmacists must be aware of. Pharmacists must assess each Paxlovid™ prescription against these drug interactions and medical contraindications. Please refer to the Paxlovid™ drug interaction document (attached), and the product monograph, for information. A tool for checking COVID-19 drug interactions is also at covid19-druginteractions.org/.

Paxlovid™ clinical criteria and prescribing

Alberta Health, AHS, clinicians and other key advisors have reviewed Health Canada's guidance to set clinical eligibility criteria with the goal of ensuring treatment is provided to those who will benefit from it the most. **More information on outpatient COVID-19 treatments and eligibility is available at albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17753.aspx#s.**

Albertans who meet the eligibility criteria can call Health Link at 1-844-343-0971. Health Link staff will ask screening questions and refer Albertans to a health professional to confirm eligibility and arrange next steps for getting the most appropriate COVID-19 treatment for them.

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)
403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)
1-800-361-9632 (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area)
FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)



ABSOLUTE contraindication	RELATIVE contraindication (may use Paxlovid®, consult pharmacist)	INDICATED (may use Paxlovid® with simple medication management)	Medication management
Amiodarone Apalutamide Bosentan Carbamazepine Clozapine Colchicine in patients with renal and/or hepatic impairment Digoxin Dronedarone Eplerenone Ergot derivatives Flecainide Flibanserin Glecaprevir/pibrentasvir Ivabradine Lurasidone Mexiletine Phenobarbital Phenytoin Pimozide Propafenone Quinidine Ranolazine Rifampin Rifapentine Vorapaxar	Alprazolam Clonazepam Codeine Diazepam Fentanyl Hydrocodone Meperidine Midazolam (oral) Oxycodone Tramadol Triazolam	HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (Atorvastatin, Rosuvastatin, Simvastatin, Lovastatin) Lomitapide PD5 inhibitors for Erectile Dysfunction: Tadalafil Sildenafil Vardenafil Suvorexant	Hold 7 days
		Salmeterol	Decrease dose or switch to alternative (formoterol)
		Piroxicam Oral contraceptive Alfuzosin Silodosin	Switch to alternative
St. John's wort Calcineurin inhibitors (Cyclosporine, Tacrolimus) mTOR kinase inhibitors (Sirolimus, Everolimus) PDE5 inhibitors for pulmonary hypertension (Sildenafil, Tadalafil, Vardenafil) Anticoagulation, antiplatelet (Apixaban, Clopidogrel, Rivaroxaban, Ticagrelor, Warfarin)	Herbal products	Buprenorphine/naloxone Methadone Tamsulosin	Continue current dose and monitor