

A REFERENCE GUIDE for federally supplied Paxlovid™

PAXLOVID™ DISPENSING

Updated March 15, 2024

NOTE: this guidance applies to the federally funded Paxlovid™ supply that is available at no cost to pharmacies and patients. We understand that full-cost commercial supply of Paxlovid will be available in warehouses for pharmacies to order soon. Currently, the commercial supply of Paxlovid is under review by Alberta Health. Further information will be provided at a later date.

KEY MESSAGES

- All Alberta pharmacies are eligible to dispense Paxlovid™.
- Paxlovid™ is available to eligible Albertans. A positive COVID-19 test is required as part of eligibility.
- Paxlovid™ criteria are available on the Alberta Health Services (AHS) website at ahs.ca/covidopt. It is important to know that these criteria are considered guidelines and clinicians can still assess patients on a case-by-case basis for appropriateness using their professional judgement.
- If a patient has tested positive for COVID-19 and believes they meet the eligibility criteria, please have them call their primary care practitioner. If they don't have one or the primary care practitioner isn't prescribing Paxlovid™, they can call the dedicated Health Link line at 1-844-343-0971 to find out if they qualify to receive treatment. Do not call 811. 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-vaccine/covid-vaccine-canada.ca/info/paxlovid-en.html).
- 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.
- Most of the federal supply for the full dose will expire on March 31, 2024. Some lots of the renal impairment dose packages will expire on May 31, 2024. To extend the available supply, pharmacists are encouraged to dispense Paxlovid™ with the earliest expiry dates first, adjust tablets to make a full dose out of 2 renal packages and provide instructions and counselling as required.

- Pharmacies may dispense 2 packages of renal impairment dose packaging (DIN: 02527804) to make 1 full dose. To adjust the dose, dispense 2 renal impairment dose packages (DIN: 02527804). From 1 package, remove 1 ritonavir 100 mg (white tablet) from both the morning and evening dose of each daily card. Discard the extra ritonavir tablet.

PHARMACY COMPENSATION

Pharmacies will be compensated 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 for each package of Paxlovid™. Pharmacies can bill only 1 dispensing fee when 2 packages of renal impairment dosing are dispensed to make a full dose.

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

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- 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
- Special Service Code (SSC)—blank
- Days' supply
- Drug cost—\$0
- Allowable upcharge #2—\$0
- Dispensing fee—up to a maximum of \$22.15 for dispensing of 1 package and \$32.15 for dispensing of 2 renal packages

PAXLOVID™ ORDERING

Pharmacies can order Paxlovid™ via their primary pharmacy wholesale distributor. Quantity will be limited to 1 course of treatment per order placed. Pharmacy teams are asked to order only the minimum amount to meet demand in their community.

Stock will be available at wholesalers up until 1 week prior to the expiry date of the product. For supply of federally-procured Paxlovid™ that expires on March 31, 2024, pharmacists will be able to order supply until **March 22, 2024** and federally-procured Paxlovid™ that expires on May 31, 2024, pharmacists will be able to order this supply until **May 24, 2024**.

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.canada.ca/info/paxlovid-en.html). Pharmacy teams should review this information as soon as possible.

- Paxlovid™ is a combination of 2 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 2 sets of tablets (total of 3 tablets per dose) taken orally, twice a day for 5 days.
- DIN 02527804 consists of 2 sets of tablets (total of 2 tablets per dose for individuals with moderate renal impairment with an eGFR of 30 to 59 mL/min) taken orally, twice a day for 5 days.
- Treatment must start within 5 days of symptoms appearing as Paxlovid™ has been shown to be most effective when administered in the early phases of infection and viral replication, while symptoms remain mild to moderate.

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/](https://www.canada.ca/info/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.**

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
<p>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</p> <p>St. John's wort</p> <p>Calcineurin inhibitors (Cyclosporine, Tacrolimus)</p> <p>mTOR kinase inhibitors (Sirolimus, Everolimus)</p> <p>PDE5 inhibitors for pulmonary hypertension (Sildenafil, Tadalafil, Vardenafil)</p> <p>Anticoagulation, antiplatelet (Apixaban, Clopidogrel, Rivaroxaban, Ticagrelor, Warfarin)</p>	<p>Alprazolam Clonazepam Codeine Diazepam Fentanyl Hydrocodone Meperidine Midazolam (oral) Oxycodone Tramadol Triazolam</p> <p>Herbal products</p>	<p>HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (Atorvastatin Rosuvastatin, Simvastatin, Lovastatin) Lomitapide</p> <p>PD5 inhibitors for Erectile Dysfunction: Tadalafil Sildenafil Vardenafil</p> <p>Suvorexant</p>	<p>Hold 7 days</p>
		<p>Salmeterol</p>	<p>Decrease dose or switch to alternative (formoterol)</p>
		<p>Piroxicam Oral contraceptive Alfuzosin Silodosin</p>	<p>Switch to alternative</p>
		<p>Buprenorphine/naloxone Methadone Tamsulosin</p>	<p>Continue current dose and monitor</p>