

Health Advisory

Prescribing Oral Antivirals (*Paxlovid* and *Molnupiravir*) for COVID-19 January 24, 2022

SUMMARY POINTS

- Paxlovid and Molnupiravir are now available to individuals with mild to moderate COVID-19 illness who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19.
- Paxlovid has significant drug interactions. It is essential to complete medication review before prescribing this medication.
- Molnupiravir should be used only when alternative options are not available.
- Oral antivirals must be used as soon as possible and within 5 day of symptom onset
- Visit COVID-19 Public Therapeutic Locator to identify potential pharmacies that may have Paxlovid and Molnupiravir available to the community.

Individuals with mild to moderate COVID-19 illness at high risk of disease progression may be eligible to receive Paxlovid (Ritonavir-Boosted Nirmatrelvir) or Molnupiravir under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) conferred by Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Both drugs have greater efficacy if initiated as soon as possible and must be initiated within 5 days of symptom onset.

Paxlovid is authorized for use in those 12 and older. It has significant drug-drug interactions with many medications. Prescribers and pharmacists should carefully review the patient's medications to assure there is no interaction. In addition, Paxlovid must be renally dosed. More information about drug-drug interactions can be found in [The COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel's Statement Potential Drug-Drug Interactions Between Ritonavir-Boosted Nirmatrelvir \(Paxlovid\) and Concomitant Medications](#).

Due to its lower efficacy as well as potential safety concerns, Molnupiravir should only be considered when other options are not available. Molnupiravir is not recommended in pregnancy, given there may be a potential for mutagenicity. Molnupiravir is also not recommended in lactating women or pediatric populations due to the limited data and potential bone growth toxicity in the pediatric population.

Prescribers may visit the [COVID-19 Public Therapeutic Locator](#) managed by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) to determine which pharmacies have these therapeutics. Paxlovid and Molnupiravir inventory information is updated daily at 6 AM.

Area pharmacies have recommended the following be included on prescriptions sent in order to expedite the process and assure patient safety:

- **Do not dispense on or after this date (MM/DD/YYYY).** Paxlovid and Molnupiravir should be dispensed within 5 days from symptom onset.
- **Paxlovid Only:** Information about the **Renal Function (i.e., eGFR)** as paxlovid is dosed renally.

Prior to sending the prescription to the pharmacy, it is strongly recommended that the **prescriber to call the pharmacy and speak with the pharmacist**. Conversation with the pharmacist allows the confirmation of inventory and promotes the collaboration with the prescriber. This is especially valuable when sending to a pharmacy that the patient typically doesn't use, so that medication interactions can be reviewed.

Resources:

- [Using Therapeutics to Prevent and Treat COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Public Therapeutic Locator](#)
- [The COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel's Statement on Potential Drug-Drug Interactions Between Ritonavir-Boosted Nirmatrelvir \(Paxlovid\) and Concomitant Medications](#)
- [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers: Emergency Use Authorization for Paxlovid](#)
- [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers: Emergency Use Authorization for Molnupiravir](#)