

Considerations for Pharmacist Prescribing Nirmatrelvir with Ritonavir (Paxlovid™)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently revised the [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) for nirmatrelvir with ritonavir to allow state-licensed pharmacists to prescribe the medication to eligible patients under certain conditions. Details can be found in the [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers: Emergency Use Authorization for Paxlovid™](#). This tip sheet is intended to provide general information for organizations to consider when planning and implementing pharmacist prescribing of nirmatrelvir with ritonavir.

PATIENT CARE ENVIRONMENT

- Appropriate protection during patient evaluation:
 - » Consider protections for pharmacy staff and others in proximity to a patient with a positive SARS-CoV-2 test.
 - » Use remote methods of evaluation when possible (e.g., telephone, telehealth, drive-through).
 - » Ensure appropriate masking and other personal protective equipment (PPE) if in-person evaluation is necessary.

PATIENT EVALUATION

The following information is required for evaluation and prescribing nirmatrelvir with ritonavir. The FDA has also published a [Patient Eligibility Screening Checklist Tool for Prescribers](#) that organizations may find helpful for pharmacist evaluation of individual patients.

- Positive direct SARS-CoV-2 test result:
 - » Nucleic acid amplification tests (e.g., PCR) and home antigen tests are acceptable.
 - Patient reporting of home antigen tests is also acceptable.
 - Antibody tests are not indicative of active SARS-CoV-2 infection and are not acceptable.
 - » Testing does not need to be performed by the evaluating prescriber.
- Age, weight:
 - » Patients must be 12 years of age or older and weigh 40 kg or more
- Symptoms of mild-to-moderate COVID-19:
 - » Pharmacists must evaluate patients for mild-to-moderate [symptoms of COVID-19](#) to determine eligibility for nirmatrelvir with ritonavir.
 - » Patients with severe respiratory symptoms or difficulty breathing should be referred to urgent care or an emergency department.
- Risk of progression to severe COVID-19:
 - » Pharmacists must evaluate patients for [risk factors for progression to severe COVID-19](#) to determine eligibility for nirmatrelvir with ritonavir.

- Medical and Allergy History
 - » Pharmacists must determine if patients have any contraindications to nirmatrelvir with ritonavir, including hypersensitivity to the medications or components, Child-Pugh class C liver disease, or estimated GFR below 30 mL/min.
 - » Pharmacists must have sufficient information to evaluate renal and hepatic function. Examples include:
 - Laboratory values within the past 12 months.
 - Printed or electronic medical records with a medical history or problem list within the past 12 months.
 - ◆ The absence of renal or hepatic insufficiency in a medical history or problem list is sufficient for evaluating renal and hepatic function.
 - Communication with the patient's primary care provider.
 - Interviewing the patient about a past medical history of liver or renal disease is not sufficient for pharmacist evaluation of their eligibility for nirmatrelvir with ritonavir.
 - » Pharmacists may prescribe the renally adjusted dose of nirmatrelvir with ritonavir if necessary.
- Comprehensive Medication List
 - » Pharmacists must review a comprehensive medication list, including over-the-counter medications and dietary supplements, to check for drug-drug interactions with ritonavir.
 - The medication list from a printed or electronic medical record may be used, although pharmacists should ensure the list is complete and current.
 - Interviewing the patient, directly, to collect a comprehensive medication list is also acceptable.
 - » The comprehensive medication list must be reviewed for interactions with ritonavir:
 - FDA [Patient Eligibility Screening Checklist Tool for Prescribers](#)
 - University of Liverpool [COVID-19 Drug Interaction Checker](#)
 - » Drug-drug interactions that can be mitigated similar to other drug-drug interactions identified through the course of normal pharmacist medication order (prescription) review.
- If the patient is not eligible for pharmacist-prescribed nirmatrelvir with ritonavir because of insufficient documentation, the patient should be referred to another practitioner who can prescribe Paxlovid.
- If the patient is not eligible for nirmatrelvir with ritonavir due to drug-drug interactions that cannot be mitigated or due to other contraindications, the patient should be referred to another practitioner who can prescribe a different COVID-19 treatment.

PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING

- If the required information is available and the patient meets eligibility criteria, the pharmacist may prescribe the standard dose or renally adjusted dose of nirmatrelvir with ritonavir.
- A copy of the [Fact Sheet for Patients, Parents, and Caregivers](#) must be provided with nirmatrelvir with ritonavir.
- Prescribing pharmacists are responsible for reporting serious adverse events and medication errors to [FDA MedWatch](#) within seven calendar days from their awareness of the event. Prescribing pharmacists are also asked to submit a copy of the report to [Pfizer Safety Reporting](#).