

Information for Pharmacists

Important Update: Paxlovid Federal Supply and Expiry Dates

March 26, 2024

- Effective March 31, 2024, the federal government will no longer provide new supplies of Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir), a treatment for mild to moderate COVID-19 for patients at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19.
- Existing federally procured supplies of Paxlovid in Manitoba will be expiring soon.¹
- To preserve limited remaining federally procured Paxlovid supply and ensure ongoing access, the department has reduced the number of pharmacies approved to order Paxlovid, as follows:
 - In cities / towns with only one (1) pharmacy approved to order Paxlovid, there is no change (i.e., the pharmacy remains approved to order Paxlovid).
 - In cities / towns with multiple pharmacies approved to order Paxlovid, a lottery system has been used to select from the approved pharmacies with the broadest client access (e.g., providing delivery, open for the most days per week):
 - In Winnipeg, five (5) geographically dispersed pharmacies have been selected.
 - In Brandon, two (2) geographically dispersed pharmacies have been selected.
 - In all other cities / towns, one (1) pharmacy has been selected.
- Pharmacies have been notified regarding whether they have been selected to continue dispensation of Paxlovid via the email address on file with the department.
- Effective March 26, 2024, only selected pharmacies are approved to order federally procured Paxlovid from the Materials Distribution Agency (MDA), according to previously established process. Federal supply will continue to be provided until it runs out or expires.
- Pharmacists are encouraged to be mindful of limited remaining federally procured Paxlovid supply and to be conservative when placing orders.
- Paxlovid is also now available to order commercially in Manitoba.
 - Commercially procured Paxlovid is not currently a benefit under Manitoba's provincial drug plans (e.g., Pharmacare).
 - Claims for commercially procured product will not be reimbursed.
 - If a pharmacy is found on audit to have submitted commercially procured Paxlovid claims for fiscal adjudication recovery of fees will occur.
- Pharmacies should continue to dispense federally procured Paxlovid to clients at no cost rather than provide commercially procured Paxlovid whenever possible. This should include directing clients to other pharmacies with remaining federally procured stock, when a pharmacy has no more on hand.
- An updated Claims Submission Procedure COVID-19 Oral Antiviral Drugs has been posted on the department's Information for Health Professionals webpage <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/healthprofessionals.html>
- Paxlovid is currently under review for possible coverage in Manitoba.

¹ Most existing federal supply will expire before or on March 31, 2024, except for some lots of the renal impairment dose packages which will expire on May 31, 2024.

Please refer to the [Pfizer shelf-life correction – June 14, 2023](#) for lot numbers and expiry dates:

https://www.pfizer.ca/files/Final-PAXLOVID-HPRC_24mShelfLifeCorrection_14Jun2023.pdf

Dispensing Instructions to Manage Supply:

To extend the available federal supply, pharmacists should adjust tablets, instructions and client counselling as necessary when dispensing Paxlovid.

The Health Canada approved dosage of Paxlovid is as follows:

- **Patients requiring the full dose (i.e., not requiring a renal impairment dose adjustment):**
 300 mg nirmatrelvir (two 150 mg pink tablets) and 100 mg ritonavir (one 100 mg white tablet) twice daily for 5 days. All three tablets are taken together per dose.
- **Patients requiring the renal impairment dose adjustment:**
 150 mg of nirmatrelvir (one 150 mg pink tablet) and 100 mg ritonavir (one 100 mg white tablet) twice daily for 5 days. Two tablets are taken together per dose.

To use full dose packaging (DIN: 02524031) for patients requiring the renal impairment dose adjustment:

- Remove 1 nirmatrelvir 150 mg (pink tablet) from both the morning and evening dose of each daily card and discard the extra nirmatrelvir tablets.

To use renal impairment dose packaging (DIN: 02527804) for patients requiring the full dose:

- Dispense 2 renal impairment dose packages. From 1 package, remove 1 ritonavir 100 mg (white tablet) from both the morning and evening dose of each daily card and discard the extra ritonavir tablets.

Disposal of expired product:

Once federally procured Paxlovid on hand at the pharmacy level has expired according to the extended expiry date, please:

- Dispose of expired product according to standard pharmacy process. Do not return expired product to the distributor.
- Provide notification of any such disposal of expired product to Manitoba Health, by completing and returning the following table to PDPInfoAudit@gov.mb.ca

Pharmacy Name:	
Pharmacy Provider Number: P	
Lot Number	Quantity Disposed of (i.e., number of treatment courses)