



Hertfordshire and  
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Care System

## Oral Antivirals for treatment of COVID-19 – Supporting information for Pharmacies

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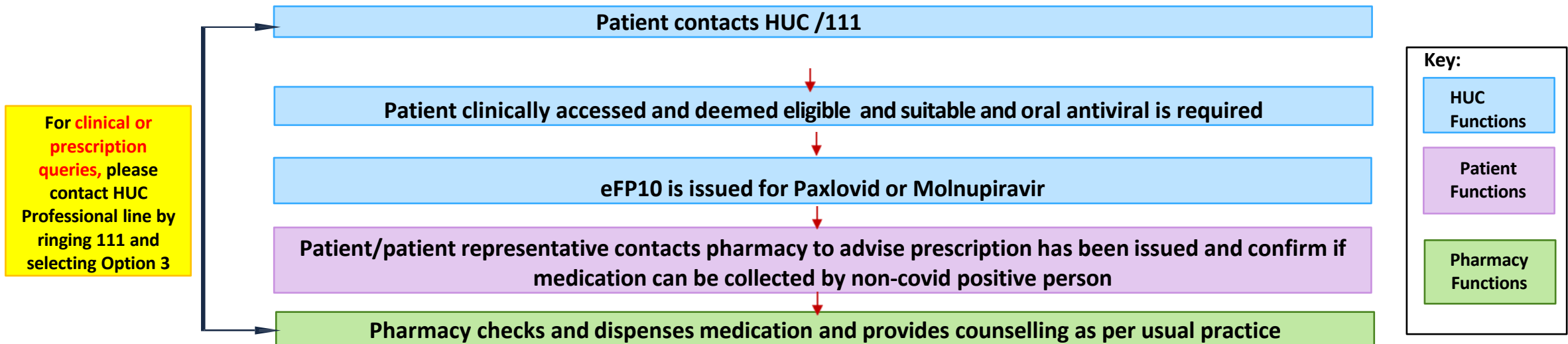
- Supply of COVID-19 antiviral medication via eFP10 by Community Pharmacy for the treatment of COVID-19 in non-hospitalised adults following assessment by the Herts Urgent Care Team (HUC)
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# Supply of COVID-19 antiviral medication via eFP10 by Community Pharmacy for the treatment of COVID-19 in non-hospitalised adults following assessment by the Herts Urgent Care Team (HUC)



# COVID-19 Antiviral Medicines – Useful information

- **Summary of Product Characteristics :**

- a. **Paxlovid®** - nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/13145>

- b. **Lagevrio®** - **molnupiravir**: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/13044>

✓UK Health Security Agency Drug information leaflets (can be printed or ordered by community pharmacies)

- **Paxlovid®**: <https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Spaxlovid>

- **Molnupiravir**:  
<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Smolnupiravirantiviralmedicineleaflet>



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# Paxlovid® (Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir)

## Educational Resources

- **Pfizer – Paxlovid** : Link: [Resources | PAXLOVID ▼ \(nirmatrelvir/ritonavir\) | PfizerPro UK](#)
- Includes information on:
  - Dosing Information and dose adjustments
  - Drug Interactions
  - Frequently asked questions

## Dose:

- **Standard dose: 2 x 150mg nirmatrelvir (pink) **plus** 1 x 100mg ritonavir (white) orally every 12 hours for 5 day**
- **Dose for patients with moderate renal impairment (CKD Stage 3) : **1** x 150mg nirmatrelvir (pink) **plus** 1 x 100mg ritonavir (white) orally every 12 hours for 5 day (do not split the pack, see slide 16 for details on dispensing in renal impairment )**
- Tablet size both: approximately 17mm x 9mm
- Take with or without food
- Swallow whole (**do not crush or chew**)

## Exclusions:

- Aged **less than 18 years**
- **Pregnancy** (effective contraception for 1 cycle)
- Patients with **severe hepatic impairment**.
- Patients with **renal failure** and **severe renal impairment (CKD Stages 4 & 5)**.
- **Ritonavir is a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor leading to significant potential drug interactions**
- **Drug interactions – see next slide for link**

## Side effects:

- common – diarrhoea, vomiting, altered sense of taste.



# Paxlovid® useful information

1. Paxlovid is not suitable for use in **pregnancy or breastfeeding**.
2. Women of childbearing potential should **avoid becoming pregnant during treatment with Paxlovid**.
3. Use of ritonavir may **reduce the efficacy of combined hormonal contraceptives**. **Patients using combined hormonal contraceptives should be advised to use an effective alternative contraceptive method or an additional barrier method of contraception during treatment and until after one complete menstrual cycle after stopping Paxlovid**.
4. **Breast-feeding** is not recommended during treatment and for 7 days after the last dose.
5. The **standard dose** is two pink nirmatrelvir tablets plus one white ritonavir tablet taken together twice a day for five days
6. **CKD 3: The dose** is one pink nirmatrelvir tablet plus one white ritonavir tablet taken together twice a day for five days (note that pills will need to be popped out of blister packs)
7. **Swallow** the tablets with plenty of fluid
8. **Do not open**, break, or crush the tablets
9. This medicine can be **taken with or without food**
10. Try to separate doses by as close to **12 hours** at a convenient time
11. **Patients should start taking Paxlovid®** the day it is collected (must start within 5 days of onset of symptoms).
12. Patients should finish the course to avoid antiviral resistance developing.
13. If patients **forget to take a dose** and it is still within 8 hours of the time it should be taken as soon as possible and take the next one at the usual time
14. If **more than 8 hours** has elapsed, the missed dose should not be taken, and the treatment should resume according to the normal dosing schedule.
15. Common side effects: diarrhoea, vomiting, altered sense of taste.
16. If patients experiences side effects or symptoms are getting worse or are not getting better then should contact GP, pharmacist or NHS 111
17. There are a number of interactions with Paxlovid so patients should be advised not to start any new medicines (including OTCs) without checking with their pharmacist or GP. Paracetamol and Ibuprofen are safe to take alongside Paxlovid® but be aware that some branded forms (Panadol, Nurofen etc.) often contain other medicines.



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# Paxlovid® interactions – useful information

Ritonavir is a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor leading to significant potential drug interactions

## Useful resources (2):

[Liverpool COVID-19 Interactions \(covid19-druginteractions.org\)](https://www.covid19-druginteractions.org/) Link: <https://www.covid19-druginteractions.org/>

The screenshot shows the 'COVID-19 Drug Interactions' website interface. It has a green header with the University of Liverpool logo and navigation links: 'About', 'Interaction Checkers', 'Prescribing Resources', and 'Contact Us'. Below the header, a green banner states: 'with selected WHO Essential Medicines and Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) now available in the Prescribing Resources section - click here for more information'. A red warning message reads: 'If a drug is not listed below it cannot automatically be assumed it is safe to coadminister.' The main area is divided into three sections: 'COVID Drugs', 'Co-medications', and 'Drug Interactions'. In 'COVID Drugs', 'paxlovid' is entered. In 'Co-medications', 'apixaban' is entered. The 'Drug Interactions' section shows a 'Do Not Coadminister' result for the combination of Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir and Apixaban, with a warning to read interaction details. There are also filters for 'A-Z', 'Class', and 'Trade' for both drug lists, and buttons for 'Reset Checker', 'Switch to table view', and 'Results Key'.

A-Z: All medicines where PF-07321332/ritonavir is NOT an appropriate option

DO NOT USE CONSIDER RISKS AND BENEFITS

Abemaciclib Acalabrutinib Alfuzosin Aliskiren Amiodarone Apalutamide Apixaban Avanafil Bedaquiline Bosentan  
Budesonide Carbamazepine Ceritinib Ciclosporin Cisapride Clonazepam Clopidogrel Clozapine Colchicine  
Contraception, hormonal Dabigatran Delamanid Dexamphetamine Diazepam Digoxin Dihydroergotamine  
Disopyramide Dronedarone Elbasvir/grazoprevir (Zepatier) Eletriptan Encorafenib Enzalutamide Eplerenone  
Ergotamine Everolimus Exviera Fentanyl Flecainide Flurazepam Fluticasone Fostamatinib Fusidic acid  
Glecaprevir/pibrentasvir (Maviret) Ibrutinib Ivabradine Ketoconazole Lamotrigine Lercanidipine Letemovir  
Levothyroxine Lomitapide Lurasidone Methadone Methylphenidate Midazolam Neratinib Pethidine Phenobarbital  
Phenytoin Pimozide Piroxicam Propafenone Propoxyphene Quetiapine Quinidine Ranolazine Rifabutin  
Rifampicin Riociguat Rivaroxaban Rosuvastatin Salmeterol Sildenafil Simvastatin Sirolimus Sodium fusidate  
St. John's Wort Tacrolimus Tadalafil Theophylline Ticagrelor Valproic acid Vardenafil Venetoclax Viekirax  
Vinblastine Vincristine Voriconazole Warfarin

More detail of drug/drug interactions in found on the Liverpool COVID Drug Interaction Checker - Click Here



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# Paxlovid® interactions

- Useful resources:

**Pfizer Medicines Interaction Checker:**

Link: <https://www.pfizermedicalinformation.co.uk/en-gb/medicines-interaction-checker?>

<p><b>Choose Medicine 1:</b></p> <p>PAXLOVID ▼ (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) ▼</p> <p><b>Choose Medicine 2:</b></p> <p>Alfuzosin ▼</p> <p><b>Submit</b></p>	<p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Contraindicated Drug Interaction: Interactions that result in increased concentrations of concomitant medicinal product as Paxlovid inhibits their CYP3A4 metabolic pathway.</p> <p>AUC change, Cmax Change: ↑Alfuzosin</p> <p>Increased plasma concentrations of alfuzosin may lead to severe hypotension and is therefore contraindicated.</p> <p>Please access Paxlovid Summary of Product Characteristics at <a href="https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/search?q=paxlovid">https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/search?q=paxlovid</a> for more information on interactions.</p> <p>This information is correct as of (14.06.2023). The information provided may change in the future and you are reminded to always consult the most recent version of the summary of product characteristics.</p>
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# Paxlovid® dispensing – renal dosing

For patients with CKD stage 3 a dose of 150mg nirmatrelvir (**ONE PINK tablet**) AND 100mg ritonavir (**ONE WHITE tablet**) together TWICE DAILY for 5 days will be prescribed.

Patient must be advised to **discard extra tablets where not required for the prescribed treatment.**

**STEP ONE:** Remove one of the 150 mg nirmatrelvir tablets from the morning dose and remove one of the 150 mg nirmatrelvir tablets from the evening dose of the blister card (see figure 1 below). The nirmatrelvir tablets that are removed should be the ones closest to the middle of the blister pack.



**Figure 1: Remove the nirmatrelvir tablets circled in red from the blister card**

# Molnupiravir (Lagevrio®) – Useful information

## Dose

- 800mg (**4 x 200mg**) orally every 12 hours for 5 days
- Swedish Orange colour capsules are 21.7mm x 7.6mm
- Take with or without food
- Swallow whole (do not open, crush or chew) with a sufficient amount of fluid (e.g., a glass of water)

## Exclusions

- Aged **less than 18 years**
- **Pregnancy (require effective contraception)**

## Side effects

- Diarrhoea, nausea, dizziness



# Molnupiravir – useful information

1. Molnupiravir is not suitable for use in **pregnancy or breastfeeding**.
2. Women of childbearing potential should **use effective contraception for the duration of treatment and for 4 days after the last dose of Lagevrio® (molnupiravir)**.
3. **Breast-feeding** is not recommended during treatment and for 4 days after the last dose
4. The **dose** is four 200 mg capsules, twice a day for 5 days and you should start it as soon as you receive it (within 5 days of treatment onset).
5. **Swallow** the capsule whole with plenty of fluid (for instance a glass of water).
6. **Do not open**, break, or crush the capsules.
7. This medicine can be **taken with or without food**.
8. Try to separate doses by as close to **12 hours** at a convenient time (for example, 8am and 8pm).
9. If patient forgets to take a **dose within 10 hours** of the time it is usually taken, it should be taken as soon as possible and the next dose taken at the usual time.
10. If patient forgets to take a dose by **more than 10 hours**, they should not take the missed dose and instead take the next dose at the usual time.
11. **Start** the day you receive it, do not wait until the following day (must start within 5 days of onset of symptoms).
12. Patients should finish the course to avoid antiviral resistance developing.
13. **Common side effects include** diarrhoea, nausea and dizziness. Uncommon (1 in 100) side effects include headache, vomiting, rash and urticaria.
14. **If patients experiences side effects or symptoms are getting worse or are not getting better then should contact GP, pharmacist or NHS 111**



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# Obtaining Stock

- Order from **Alliance Healthcare** in your usual manner.
- Are available on a **same day delivery service**.
- **Free of charge** (no cost for medication). Contractors will receive a nominal reimbursement amount of £2.50, which DHSC has set to recognise the purchase margin contractors would ordinarily retain on products they had purchased to fulfil a prescription.
- There is a **monthly cap** on ordering of **6 packs** of either Paxlovid or molnupiravir. However, if you find this is insufficient to meet current demand then this can be raised. Please email [hweicbhv.medicinesoptimisationteam@nhs.net](mailto:hweicbhv.medicinesoptimisationteam@nhs.net) if this is the case and we will ask for the increase on your behalf via the regional NHS England team.
- Order codes:

PIP	Description	Item Size	EAN
8051765	LAGEVRIO CAPS 200MG	40	0191778023510
8051773	PAXLOVID FC TABS 150MG/100MG	30	54145062384961



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