

## Outpatient Use of Oral COVID-19 Therapies Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir (Paxlovid) & Molnupiravir

Two oral antivirals, [Paxlovid \(nirmatrelvir & ritonavir\)](#) and [molnupiravir](#), are available now under Emergency Use Authorization by FDA for treating COVID-19 in outpatients with mild to moderate disease. Paxlovid is preferred. From their individual clinical trials, compared to placebo, severe outcomes (hospitalization or death) were reduced by 88% for Paxlovid and 30% for molnupiravir.

**Both drugs are available in very limited supplies at select Meijer pharmacies only.** Refer to [COVID-19 Oral Therapeutic Program \(meijer.com\)](#) for current availability. Epic ePrescribing is available effective 1/6/2022. To avoid delays when ePrescribing, select appropriate Meijer store # according to stock at website above.

Drug & Dose for Normal Renal Function (link to fact sheet)	<a href="#">Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir (Paxlovid)</a> Take 2 nirmatrelvir tablets (300 mg) and 1 ritonavir tablet (100 mg) by mouth every 12 hours for 5 days	<a href="#">Molnupiravir</a> Take 4 capsules (800 mg) by mouth every 12 hours for 5 days
Criteria for use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive SARS-CoV-2 test AND</li> <li>No more than 5 days from symptom onset before initiation AND</li> <li>Age ≥12 years and weight at least 40 kg AND</li> <li>Moderate to severe immunocompromise<sup>1</sup> regardless of vaccine status OR</li> <li>Age &gt;75 years and not maximally vaccinated<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive SARS-CoV-2 test AND</li> <li>No more than 5 days from symptom onset before initiation AND</li> <li>Age ≥18 years AND</li> <li>Alternative COVID-19 therapy is not readily available AND</li> <li>Moderate to severe immunocompromise<sup>1</sup> regardless of vaccine status OR</li> <li>Age &gt;75 years and not maximally vaccinated<sup>2</sup> OR</li> <li>Age 65-74 years and not maximally vaccinated<sup>2</sup> AND at least one of the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BMI &gt; 35</li> <li>Chronic respiratory disease</li> <li>CKD stage III-V</li> <li>Cardiovascular disease, including hypertension</li> <li>Diabetes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Not authorized for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospitalized patients</li> <li>Pre- or post-exposure prophylaxis</li> <li>More than 5-day duration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age &lt; 18</li> <li>Hospitalized patients</li> <li>Pre- or post-exposure prophylaxis</li> <li>More than 5-day duration</li> </ul>
Contraindications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major CYP3A drug interactions identified (refer to page 2)</li> <li>eGFR less than 30</li> <li>Child Pugh Class C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embryo-fetal toxicity: not recommended in pregnancy</li> </ul>
Warnings, Considerations, Adverse Effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renal dose adjustment required for eGFR &lt; 60</li> <li>Hepatotoxicity: Hepatic transaminase elevations, hepatitis, jaundice</li> <li>HIV drug resistance</li> <li>Dysgeusia, diarrhea, hypertension, myalgia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women: reliable contraception during treatment plus an additional 4 days</li> <li>Men: reliable contraception during treatment plus an additional 3 months</li> <li>Bone and cartilage toxicity: not authorized in patients &lt; 18 years</li> <li>Diarrhea, nausea, dizziness</li> </ul>
Emergency Authorization Requirements for Prescriber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide fact sheet to patient, parent or caregiver: <a href="#">Paxlovid</a> <a href="#">Molnupiravir</a></li> <li>Required reporting of medication errors and serious adverse effects to <a href="#">Medwatch</a></li> </ul>	

1. Moderate to severe immunocompromise defined as active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood, organ transplant, stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system, moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome), advanced or untreated HIV infection, active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response

2. Maximally vaccinated defined as completion of all recommended vaccinations for age group, including booster

### Selected Paxlovid Drug Interactions

<p>Prescribe Alternative Therapy to Paxlovid if Patient is Receiving any of the Below Medications</p>	<p>Before Prescribing Paxlovid, evaluate for the Below Medications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Withhold the medication if clinically appropriate</li> <li>• If withholding is not clinically appropriate, use an alternative concomitant medication or COVID-19 therapy</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amiodarone</li> <li>• Apalutamide</li> <li>• Bosentan</li> <li>• Carbamazepine</li> <li>• Cisapride</li> <li>• Clopidogrel</li> <li>• Clozapine</li> <li>• Colchicine in patients with renal and/or hepatic impairment</li> <li>• Disopyramide</li> <li>• Dofetilide</li> <li>• Dronedarone</li> <li>• Eplerenone</li> <li>• Ergot derivatives</li> <li>• Flecainide</li> <li>• Flibanserin</li> <li>• Glecaprevir/pibrentasvir</li> <li>• Ivabradine</li> <li>• Lumateperone</li> <li>• Lurasidone</li> <li>• Mexiletine</li> <li>• Phenobarbital</li> <li>• Phenytoin</li> <li>• Pimozide</li> <li>• Propafenone</li> <li>• Quinidine</li> <li>• Ranolazine</li> <li>• Rifampin</li> <li>• Rifapentine</li> <li>• Rivaroxaban</li> <li>• Sildenafil for pulmonary hypertension</li> <li>• St. John's wort</li> <li>• Tadalafil for pulmonary hypertension</li> <li>• Ticagrelor</li> <li>• Vorapaxar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alfuzosin</li> <li>• Alprazolam</li> <li>• Atorvastatin</li> <li>• Avanafil</li> <li>• Clonazepam</li> <li>• Codeine</li> <li>• Cyclosporine<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Diazepam</li> <li>• Everolimus<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Fentanyl</li> <li>• Hydrocodone</li> <li>• Lomitapide</li> <li>• Lovastatin</li> <li>• Meperidine (pethidine)</li> <li>• Midazolam (oral)</li> <li>• Oxycodone</li> <li>• Piroxicam</li> <li>• Propoxyphene</li> <li>• Rosuvastatin</li> <li>• Salmeterol</li> <li>• Sildenafil for erectile dysfunction</li> <li>• Silodosin</li> <li>• Simvastatin</li> <li>• Sirolimus<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Suvorexant</li> <li>• Tacrolimus<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Tadalafil for erectile dysfunction</li> <li>• Tamsulosin</li> <li>• Tramadol</li> <li>• Triazolam</li> <li>• Vardenafil</li> </ul>

Not a comprehensive list. Adapted from [Statement on Paxlovid Drug-Drug Interactions | COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines \(nih.gov\)](#)

Consult a pharmacist or [Liverpool COVID-19 Interactions \(covid19-druginteractions.org\)](#) for drug interaction assistance.

3. Before prescribing ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir (Paxlovid) for a patient receiving this immunosuppressant, the patient's specialist provider(s) should be consulted, given the significant drug-drug interaction potential between ritonavir and the narrow therapeutic index agent and because close monitoring may not be feasible.