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Memorandum

To: **PEI Community Pharmacists and Pharmacies and PEI Pharmacists Association**
 From: Department of Health and Wellness Pharmacy Services (Pharmacare and Pharmaceutical Services)
 Date: May 24, 2024
 Subject: Changes to the Pharmacy Plus Model to Support Timely Access to Pharmacare Paxlovid Reimbursement

This memo is intended to guide community pharmacists through the changes required to support the transition of Paxlovid reimbursement from the federal-supplied model to the PEI Pharmacare model. Once PEI’s reimbursement of Paxlovid has transitioned to the PEI Pharmacare model, the below only pertains to Paxlovid reimbursed through PEI Pharmacare. The below does not apply to patients accessing Paxlovid coverage through other non-Pharmacare routes.

As a reminder, PEI Pharmacare reimbursement of Paxlovid requires that:

1. The patient meets the special authorization criteria; AND
2. The patient is enrolled in an eligible drug program (Family Health Benefits, Financial Assistance, Nursing Home, Seniors, or Catastrophic Drug) at the time of service.

To ensure timely access to Paxlovid reimbursement through PEI Pharmacare, the Pharmacy Plus reimbursement guide for the assessment below has been revised:

Pharmacy Plus Assessment – COVID-19

COVID-19 assessment for medication therapy: PDIN 93899792

Effective May 27, 2024, for patients accessing Paxlovid reimbursement through Pharmacare, either in whole or partially, the [Pharmacist Initiated Treatment of Covid-19 Paxlovid Special Authorization Form](#) must be completed and shared with Pharmacare when a pharmacist prescribes Paxlovid. For impacted patients, both coverage of Paxlovid and reimbursement of this assessment requires documented compliance with the Pharmacare special authorization criteria.

Regardless of the use of the Pharmacare Special Authorization form, pharmacists are still required to prescribe within their scope of practice and refer when appropriate.

Pharmacare Paxlovid Coverage FAQ:

- COVID-19 testing to confirm diagnosis can be performed by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or point-of-care test (POCT). Confirmation of a positive test and date of testing from the patient or caregiver is adequate confirmation.
- Paxlovid treatment should be initiated as soon as possible after a diagnosis of COVID-19 is confirmed.
- Patients are not eligible for Paxlovid coverage if they are asymptomatic or if more than 5 days have elapsed since symptom onset.
- Pharmacists MUST use the approved [Pharmacist Initiated Treatment of Covid-19 Paxlovid Special Authorization Form](#) for Paxlovid prescriptions written by a pharmacist and reimbursed through Pharmacare.
- If Paxlovid is not electronically reimbursed through Pharmacare at the time of dispensing, manual claims for coverage or retroactive coverage will not be considered. Confirmation of program enrollment should be established through electronic adjudication to Pharmacare.
- If considering Paxlovid coverage for a patient who is moderately or severely immunosuppressed due to a condition not outlined in the special authorization criteria, the pharmacists should either contact Pharmacare or refer to another appropriate prescriber.
- Non-pharmacist prescribers are not required to submit a Special Authorization form when prescribing Paxlovid.

Additional Resources:

- The Health PEI order set can be accessed through the previously communicated pathway via TXConnect. The order set will be updated in the coming weeks.
- Paxlovid prescribing guidance is also available on the Firstline app.
- [Pharmacist Bulletin - May 24, 2024.](#)
- [Pharmacist Initiated Treatment of Covid-19 Paxlovid Special Authorization Request Form](#)
- Memo: [Changes to Eligibility Criteria for Paxlovid™ Cost Assistance](#)
- PEI Website: [Paxlovid \(antiviral for treating COVID-19\) | Government of Prince Edward Island](#)