PEI Pharmacare
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Programmes provinciaux de medicaments
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PEI Pharmacare Bulletin

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NEW PRODUCT(S) ADDED TO THE PEI PHARMACARE FORMULARY (EFFECTIVE DATE: MAY 27, 2024)

Product (Generic name)	Product (Brand name)	Strength	Dosage Form	DIN	MFR
Nirmatrelvir/Ritonavir	**Paxlovid** **Paxlovid Renal**	**150 mg/100 mg** **150 mg/100 mg**	**Tablet** **Tablet**	**02524031** **02527804**	**PFI**

Criteria	For the treatment of mild to moderate coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in adult patients with a positive COVID-19 test who are within 5 days of symptom onset and meet one of the following criteria:
	
	• Severely immunosuppressed **due to one or more of the following conditions**:
	  • Solid organ transplant
	  • Receiving treatment for a malignant hematologic condition
	  • Bone marrow transplant, stem cell transplant or transplant-related immunosuppressant use
	  • Received an anti-CD20 therapy or B-cell depleting therapy (such as rituximab) in the previous two years
	  • Severe primary immunodeficiencies
	
	• Moderately immunosuppressed **due to one or more of the following conditions**:
	  • Receiving treatment for cancer, including solid tumors
	  • Receiving treatment with significantly immunosuppressing drugs (e.g., biologic in the past three months, oral immune-suppressing drug in the past month, oral steroid [20 mg per day of prednisone equivalent taken on an ongoing basis] in the past month, or immune-suppressing infusion or injection in the past three months)
	  • Advanced HIV infection
	  • Moderate primary immunodeficiencies
	  • Renal conditions (i.e., hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, glomerulonephritis treated with a steroid, eGFR less than 15 mL/min/1.73m^2)				

	Clinical Notes: • COVID-19 testing to confirm diagnosis can be performed by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or point-of-care test (POCT). • Treatment should be initiated as soon as possible after a diagnosis of COVID-19 is confirmed. • Patients are not eligible for coverage if they are asymptomatic or if more than 5 days have elapsed since symptom onset. • Requests for patients who are moderately or severely immunosuppressed due to other conditions may be considered. Claim Notes: • Pharmacists must verify eligibility criteria prior to dispensing and provide a copy of the *Pharmacist Initiated Treatment of COVID-19 Paxlovid Special Authorization* form to Pharmacare. • Approval period: 5 days. Pharmacist Prescribers: • Completion of the *Pharmacist Initiated Treatment of Covid-19 Paxlovid Special Authorization Form* is required. The completed form must be faxed to Pharmacare the day of dispensing. • Pharmacies do not have to wait for special authorization approval by Pharmacare prior to dispensing. • Please contact Pharmacare if considering Paxlovid coverage for patients who are moderately or severely immunosuppressed due to other conditions not defined above. Note: Non-pharmacist prescribers are not required to submit a Special Authorization form when prescribing Paxlovid.
Program Eligibility	Family Health Benefit Drug Program, Financial Assistance Drug Program, Catastrophic Drug Program, Nursing Home Drug Program, Seniors Drug Program

Changes to the Federally Supplied Paxlovid Procurement Process and Pharmacy Reimbursement Process

Pharmacists are responsible for ensuring that only the federally supplied ($0 drug-cost) Paxlovid is used for PEI residents until May 26, 2024. Effective May 27, 2024, pharmacists MUST use the Pharmacare model for coverage of Paxlovid as the federally supplied stock should no longer be dispensed. Pharmacare will not reimburse pharmacies for any drug costs or mark-ups associated with non-federally supplied Paxlovid prior to May 27, 2024.

As per the PEI Pharmacists Association Contract, eligible costs for medications reimbursed through PEI Pharmacare programs include the standard dispensing fee, mark-up, and drug cost. Effective May 27, 2024, for eligible patients, pharmacies can submit for an associated Paxlovid mark-up through Pharmacare, in addition to the MLP drug-cost and standard dispensing fee. Consequently, pharmacies will no longer be eligible for the alternate dispensing fee associated with the federally supplied Paxlovid.

Further information regarding a pharmacist-led special authorization process for Paxlovid will be forthcoming.