

Paxlovid oral medication

Covid-19 Medicines Delivery Unit (CMDU)

Introduction

This leaflet has been produced for people who are eligible for oral antiviral COVID-19 medication.

The CMDU service is available to offer support for those vulnerable patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 to ensure they are protected from the impact of COVID-19, aiming to reduce hospital admissions and fatalities.

Medication

The Paxlovid medication works by stopping the virus multiplying in the body's cells. This may help your body overcome the infection.

The Paxlovid medications consists of 2 types of tablets – pink tablets of nirmatrelvir and white tablets of ritonavir. They are taken twice a day in the morning and the evening. Please check the instructions on the medication box of pink tablets of nirmatrelvir as the number of tablets to take is either 1 or 2 tablets dependant on your kidney function.

The tablets must be swallowed whole. Do not chew, break or crush the tablets.

They can be taken with food or without food.

If you miss a dose of Paxlovid – if it is more than 8 hours since your missed dose, then do not take the missed dose and take the next dose at the usual time. If it is less than 8 hours since your missed dose, then take the tablets as soon as you remember.

This is a 5-day course of treatment and must be completed even if you start to feel better. This is to reduce the chances of a strain of the virus that is resistant to treatment developing.

What if I am pregnant, planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding?

Do not take Paxlovid if you are pregnant or breast feeding as there may be significant risks related to the medication that we are not yet aware of.

If there is the possibility of you becoming pregnant and you are on oral contraceptive pills additional contraceptive precautions may be required such as condoms, diaphragm, cap or refrain from sexual activity while taking Paxlovid and for one full menstrual cycle after completing the Paxlovid medication.

These tablets have been prescribed for you only. They should not be taken by anyone else even if they have COVID-19.

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

Where can I get this medication?

Your prescription will be dispensed by Lloyds Pharmacy at New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton. You should receive a phone call from them about collection, if you are collecting. If you haven't heard from them by 12 midday the following day, please contact CMDU to follow up.

Side Effects

All medications can cause side effects.

Anaphylaxis is rare.

Possible side effects of Paxlovid include:

- Altered taste
- Diarrhoea
- Vomiting
- Liver problems such as yellowing of the skin and the whites of the eyes (jaundice), dark coloured urine, pale coloured stools, itchy skin or abdominal pain. Please let your doctor know if you develop any of these symptoms

For more information read the patient information leaflet.

For altered taste it may help to try:

- Chewing sugar free gum or sweets
- Sucking ice
- Cleaning teeth more frequently
- Using mouthwashes
- Drinking plenty of fluids

You can report any side effects directly via the Coronavirus Yellow Card Reporting site <https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk> or search for MHRA Yellow card in the Google Play or Apple App store. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medication.

Contacts & useful numbers and links

Contact details:

Mobile: 07775752740

Email: rwh-tr.cmdu.wolverhampton@nhs.net

Opening hours: 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday, including bank holidays, excluding Christmas Day.

Should you have any concerns about the side effects of the COVID-19 medication contact:

- CMDU if within working hours
- GP

Out of hours:

- Call NHS 111

On completion of your medication if you are feeling unwell you can contact your GP or call 111 for advice.

For further information:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-paxlovid/patient-information-leaflet-for-paxlovid>
- https://www.bsuh.nhs.uk/library/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2022/02/UKHSA_COVID-19_patient-discharge-Paxlovid-info-A5-4pp-GW20211169-03_WEB-1.pdf

References:

- NHS COVID-19 Treatments. COVID-19 Treatment Checklist
- PANORAMIC trial: PANORAMIC_PaxlovidPISAppendix_V3.0_15Nov2022_Clean (1).pdf accessed 9/8/2023
- Paxlovid. Patient information booklet. Pfizer

English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。