

Fact Sheet

COVID-19 Treatment: Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir (Paxlovid®)

Patient Information

This information sheet does not constitute medical advice and is for general information only. Readers should always seek independent professional advice where appropriate

How does nirmatrelvir-ritonavir (Paxlovid®) work?

Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir (Paxlovid®) is an antiviral medicine that stops the COVID-19 virus from multiplying in your body. This reduces the risk of your infection getting worse. It may also help you feel better and stay out of hospital.

Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir (Paxlovid®) does not prevent you from giving COVID-19 to others.

How to take Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir (Paxlovid®)

Paxlovid® is a combination product containing two different medicines. Nirmatrelvir tablets are pink and oval. Ritonavir tablets are white to off-white and oval. The packet contains a total of 30 tablets, in 5 blister strips.

Take 2 tablets of nirmatrelvir (total of 300mg) and 1 tablet of ritonavir (total of 100mg) every 12 hours (e.g., 3 tablets at 8am and 8pm) for a total of 5 days.

This dose may be reduced if you have kidney problems.

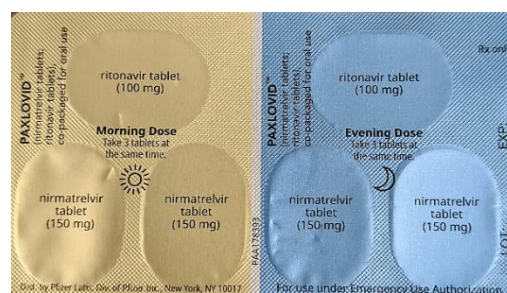
Paxlovid® should be taken until the full course is finished, even if you start to feel better before the 5 days has ended.

The tablets can be taken with or without food. Where possible, the tablets should be swallowed whole, but they can be crushed if needed.

Front of blister strip:



Back of blister strip:



What if I forget to take Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir (Paxlovid®)?

It is important that you do not miss or skip doses. Paxlovid® should be taken regularly at the same times each day.

If you forget to take a dose of Paxlovid®, take it as soon as you remember. If more than 8 hours have passed, then do not take the missed dose and just carry on as before. Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed dose.

What are some common side effects of Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir (Paxlovid®)?

All medicines can have side effects. If they occur, side effects are usually minor and temporary. As Paxlovid® is a new medicine, unknown side effects are possible.



Some common side effects include headache, vomiting, diarrhoea, high blood pressure, sore muscles, and changes in taste. These should go away after the course finishes.

Some side effects need urgent medical attention. More serious side effects include swelling of the face or lips, and difficulty breathing. It is important that you call an ambulance immediately if you experience these symptoms. Speak to your regular doctor if you experience any side effects that worry you, or that are not listed here.

How to store Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir (Paxlovid®)

Paxlovid® should be stored in its original packaging and kept below 25 °C.

If Paxlovid® needs to be re-packed into a dose administration aid (e.g. a Webster-pak®), the tablets should be cut off the blister strip (remaining in their original packaging) before being placed in a dose administration aid. Speak to your pharmacist for more information about this option.

Who should not take Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir (Paxlovid®)?

People who are allergic to ritonavir, nirmatrelvir, or any other component of the medicine should not take Paxlovid®.

Paxlovid® is not recommended for people that are less than 12 years old, or with severe kidney or liver disease.

Breastfeeding is not recommended during and for 7 days after the last dose of Paxlovid®.

It is important that you tell your health care practitioner if you could be pregnant. If you have the possibility of becoming pregnant, you should use effective birth control (i.e., barrier protection) during and for 7 days after stopping Paxlovid®.

Paxlovid® can interfere with **many** other medicines. This includes herbal medicines bought 'over the counter', and combined hormonal contraceptives (e.g., 'the pill'). If you are taking combined hormonal contraception, additional barrier protection is recommended during and for 1 month after Paxlovid® finishes.

It is important that you tell your doctor and pharmacist about all the medicines you normally take.

Can I receive a COVID-19 vaccine after treatment with Nirmatrelvir-Ritonavir (Paxlovid®)?

You should not get a COVID-19 vaccine until 6 months after your COVID-19 illness.

What If I need to come to hospital?

It is important that you bring your Paxlovid® tablets with you. This is so you can finish the 5-day course if you need to stay in hospital.

For more information

Medicines Information Service

T: (08) 8161 7555

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm

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