

Fact Sheet

COVID-19 Treatment: nirmatrelvir-ritonavir (Paxlovid®) for people receiving dialysis treatment

Guidance for dispensing Pharmacists modifying packaging

The purpose of this information sheet is to guide **dispensing** of Paxlovid® for patients receiving dialysis, to prevent confusion due to dose reduction.

Dose reduction is important for this group of people. Temporary suspension or reduction of other medications may also be advised by the prescriber to account for drug-drug interactions

Dosage of nirmatrelvir-ritonavir (Paxlovid®)

Paxlovid® is made up of two medicines: nirmatrelvir (pink, oval tablet) and ritonavir (white to off-white, oval tablet). The **pink and white tablets must be taken together at the same time.**

Recommended dose adjustment in patients on dialysis is as follows:

- > Frequency is reduced to **ONCE** daily for the total 5 day course
- > The dose of ritonavir is 100mg once daily for the 5 days
- > The dose of nirmatrelvir is modified for day 2 to 5
- > **Day 1:** Take 2 pink tablets of nirmatrelvir (total of 300mg) and 1 white tablet of ritonavir (total of 100mg) **ONCE** a day
- > **Day 2-5:** Take 1 pink tablet of nirmatrelvir (total of 150mg) and 1 white tablet of ritonavir (total of 100mg) **ONCE** a day
- > **On dialysis days, the above doses should be taken after dialysis.**

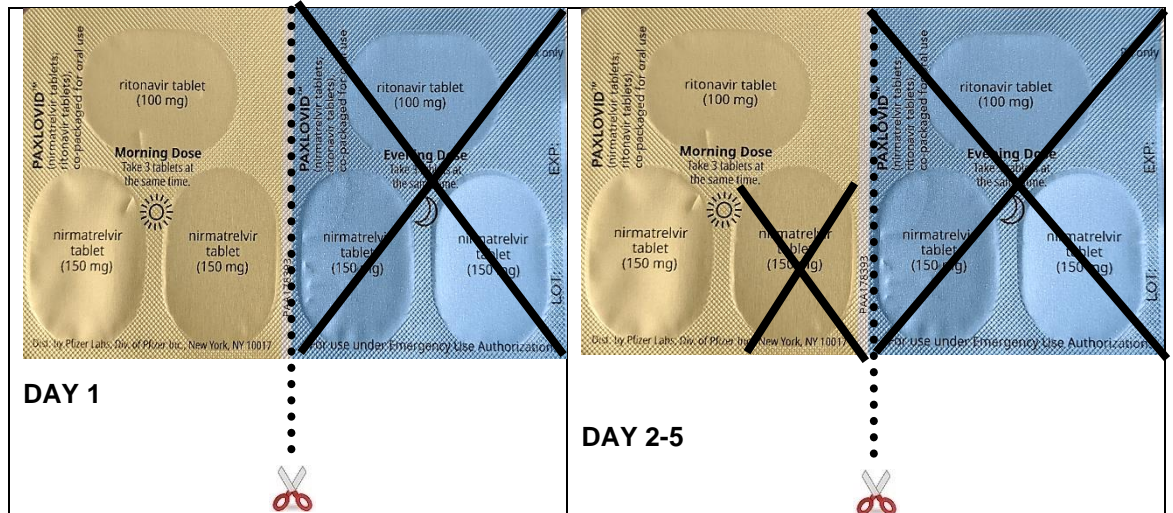
Modifying packaging of nirmatrelvir-ritonavir (Paxlovid®)

It is recommended that the dispensing pharmacist modify the Paxlovid® package to ensure correct dosing.

The dispensing pharmacist should separate the morning and evening sides of blister strips to create **ONCE** daily dosing. To utilise **ONLY** the morning (yellow) side **or ONLY** the evening (blue) side, discard the rest and clearly mark "day 1" on the blister strip with 300mg (2x150mg tablets) of nirmatrelvir.

Either over-labels or the patient dispensing label can be used to cover the generic direction on the original box. Suggested wording for dispensing labels is: ***"Note the doses in this pack have been modified for reduced kidney function"***.





How to store nirmatrelvir-ritonavir (Paxlovid®)

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

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 and remain in their original foil packaging when being placed in a dose administration aid. Speak to your pharmacist for more information about this option.

This information does not replace conversation with the client's doctor. Contact prescriber if you have any concerns or questions about dispensing Paxlovid®.

For more information

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