

Important update: Paxlovid federal supply ending expiry dates, adjusting packs and commercial supply

Federal supply

The federal supply of Paxlovid is ending. Alberta pharmacies can continue to order the federally supplied Paxlovid through regular suppliers until stock is depleted or expires.

Expiry dates

For supply of federally procured Paxlovid that expires on **March 31, 2024**, pharmacists will be able to order supply until **March 22, 2024** and may continue to dispense Paxlovid until **March 26, 2024**.

For the limited supply of the federally procured Paxlovid that expires on **May 31, 2024**, pharmacists will be able to order this supply until **May 24, 2024** and may continue to dispense this stock until **May 26, 2024**.

Pharmacists are reminded to ensure the expiry dates of the Paxlovid packs are checked before dispensing to patients to ensure it does not expire prior to the end of the treatment course.

Adjusting Paxlovid packages

In an effort to extend the availability of the federal supply, pharmacists are encouraged to dispense Paxlovid with the earliest expiry dates first which may require adjusting tablets, instructions and counselling as needed.

Suggestions for adjusting packaging are outlined below:

To use full dose packaging (DIN: 02524031) for patients requiring renal impairment dose adjustment

- Remove 1 nirmatrelvir 150 mg (pink tablet) from both the morning and evening dose of each daily card and discard the extra nirmatrelvir tablets.

To use renal impairment dose packaging (DIN: 02527804) for patient requiring full dose

- Dispense 2 renal impairment dose packages. From 1 package, remove 1 ritonavir 100 mg (white tablet) from both the morning and evening dose of each daily card and discard the extra ritonavir tablets.

Reminders

- The details regarding dispensing of the federal supply of Paxlovid can be found in the Alberta Pharmacy Reference Guide for dispensing Paxlovid on the Alberta Blue Cross website, per Benefact 1015: ab.bluecross.ca/pdfs/paxlovid-reference-guide.pdf.
- Disposal of expired federal supply should follow normal disposal of medication in their pharmacies. Do not return expired products to the distributor or manufacturer.

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Commercially available supply

Alberta pharmacies will soon be able to purchase both the regular (full) dose packaging and renal impairment dose packaging of commercially available Paxlovid supply through wholesalers.

Please note: Alberta government funding for the commercially available product is currently under review. Further information will be provided at a later date.

Background information

- Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid™) is an oral antiviral treatment indicated to reduce the risk of hospitalization in adults with mild to moderate COVID-19 at high risk of progressing to severe COVID-19. Treatment is for a total of 5 days. If a patient remains symptomatic after 5 days of treatment, another course of Paxlovid is not indicated.

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)

403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)

1-800-361-9632 (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area)

FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php

