Professional Notice

To: Pharmacy Practitioners  
From: The Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists  
Date: April 6, 2022  
Re: Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) Information and Resources

With COVID-19 continuing to circulate across the province, it is important that pharmacists are prepared to answer questions from the public and other healthcare providers regarding the use of Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) for the treatment COVID-19.

Nova Scotia Health’s Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid) Guidance and Direction for Patients document can be used to assist pharmacists in answering frequently asked questions such as:

How are individuals with COVID-19 referred and assessed for Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir)?

- Use the Report and Support Screening Tool or call 1-833-797-7772 when a positive result is obtained from a rapid antigen test or when a PCR test is booked. The form can be completed by a patient, family member, pharmacist, or other healthcare provider. Completing the screening form will help patients to be assessed for COVID-19 medications and other supports, including pulse oximeters, if needed.

Who will be considered for Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) treatment?

- Individuals who complete the Report and Support Screening Tool and who are determined through the screening tool to meet the eligibility criteria as described on the Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) checklist or Firstline early treatment algorithm.

What if I believe an individual is eligible to receive Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) treatment and needs expedited consideration for treatment?

- Pharmacists can email [see email from NSCP on April 6, 2022] if they identify a patient that meets eligibility criteria or to recommend an assessment on a case-by-case basis outside of the eligibility criteria. Using this email is a faster way to initiate an assessment of the patient. Please note: This email should not be shared with patients.

- The Report and Support Screening Tool must still be completed in order for the patient to access other important COVID-19 supports (e.g., pulse oximeters) if needed.

Who can prescribe and dispense Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir)?

- Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) can only be prescribed by NS Health designated prescribers (Please note: All Paxlovid™ [nirmatrelvir/ritonavir] prescriptions written by a designated prescriber are assessed by a NS Health pharmacist using both the NS Health Pharmacist Assessment Protocol and the NS Health Nirmatrelvir/Ritonavir (Paxlovid©) Drug Interaction Assessment Tool). AND

- Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) can only be dispensed by NS Health designated pharmacies and hospitals.
How can I confirm that a designated prescriber prescribed Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir)?

- Designated prescribers are listed on the PANS Resources for Outpatient COVID-19 Pharmacotherapy site under “Additional Resources for Pharmacies.” The list will be updated as additional prescribers are authorized.
- Designated prescribers will prescribe Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) on the NS Health Oral Antiviral for COVID-19 order set.

Pharmacists are also welcome to call the COVID-19 Non-Severe Therapy Pharmacist Consult Service at 1-833-714-2784 between 9 am and 5 pm, 7 days a week if they have COVID-19 antiviral medication or drug interaction questions.

Additional educational resources that may be helpful include:

- PANS Resources for Outpatient COVID-19 Pharmacotherapy
- NS Health Nirmatrelvir/Ritonavir (Paxlovid®) Drug Interaction Assessment Tool
- Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid™) Product Monograph
- PANS Webinar: What You Need To Know About Outpatient COVID-19 Pharmacotherapy
- Mild COVID-19 Symptom Patient Infographic