

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](#)