

Professional Notice

To: Pharmacy Practitioners
From: Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists
Date: May 10, 2022
Re: Pharmacist Prescribing Inhaled Budesonide for Mild SARS-CoV-2 Respiratory Symptoms

Pharmacists may now prescribe inhaled budesonide for the treatment of mild SARS-CoV-2 respiratory symptoms in accordance with the [Standards of Practice: Prescribing Drugs, Appendix G - Prescribing for a Diagnosis Supported by a Protocol](#).

Nova Scotia Health is looking to improve access to inhaled budesonide across the province given ongoing high rates of SARS-CoV-2 infection. PANS has been working closely with government and will be communicating information regarding billing and other resources shortly.

What does this new prescribing authority enable?

- This authority enables pharmacists to prescribe inhaled budesonide for the treatment of mild SARS-CoV-2 respiratory symptoms when using the [Nova Scotia Health Inhaled Budesonide Prescribing Protocol](#).

Can another protocol be used when prescribing inhaled budesonide for the treatment of mild SARS-CoV-2 respiratory symptoms?

- Pharmacists **can only prescribe inhaled budesonide for the treatment of SARS-CoV-2 when they do so in accordance with the [Nova Scotia Health Inhaled Budesonide Prescribing Protocol](#)**. Please note:
 - Inhaled budesonide may only be prescribed by pharmacists for the treatment of SARS-CoV-2 (no other indications)
 - The dose for the treatment of SARS-CoV-2 is 800 mcg twice daily
 - Therapeutic substitutions for nebulers, other inhaled corticosteroids, or oral/IV corticosteroids are not permitted within the protocol

What if I have questions about the use of inhaled budesonide in the treatment of mild SARS-CoV-2 respiratory symptoms?

- Pharmacists are 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 medication or drug interaction questions, including questions about the inhaled budesonide prescribing protocol.
- Pharmacists can also refer to the following resources for more information:
 - [PANS Pharmacist Prescribing for Inhaled Budesonide Video](#)
 - [NS Health COVID-19 Medication Recommendations](#)
 - [NS Health Non-Severe COVID-19 Treatment Guidance](#)
 - [NS Health Medication Summary: Inhaled Budesonide](#)



Nova Scotia
College of
Pharmacists

How do I respond to questions from my patients about Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir)?

- Please see the [Paxlovid™ \(nirmatrelvir/ritonavir\) Information and Resources](#) notice for answers to frequently asked questions.