



Paxlovid™ Prescribing Guidance Summary for Adults in Community Settings (Version 2.2 published 15.12.2023)

Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) is an oral antiviral that may be considered for patients with mild-moderate COVID-19 who are at risk of progressing to severe disease.

Some points to note when considering Paxlovid™:

- First dose is time-critical: Paxlovid™ administered at the very earliest opportunity and must be within 5 days of symptom onset.
- Recent renal function result (eGFR) should be reviewed as a Paxlovid™ dose reduction is required if eGFR <60ml/min. Paxlovid™ should not be used if eGFR <30ml/min.
- A drug-drug interaction check should be performed prior to prescribing Paxlovid™ as several clinically relevant drug interactions require concomitant drug dose adjustment or contraindicate use of Paxlovid™.

The following categories of people are eligible for consideration of use of Paxlovid™ for PCR or antigen confirmed COVID-19 infection (Tiers 1, 2, or 3 patients, as per the [HSE Paxlovid Prescribing Protocol](#))

- Vaccinated patients who are:
 - ❖ 70 years of age and older
 - ❖ 50 years of age and older who have additional risk factors*
 - ❖ Immunocompromised adults (see Appendix 2, [HSE Paxlovid Prescribing Protocol](#))
- Unvaccinated patients ≥50 yrs
- Unvaccinated patients over 18 years of age who have additional risk factors*

**Additional risk factors including, but not limited to: BMI >25kg/m²; diabetes mellitus; hypertension; cardiovascular disease; chronic lung/kidney disease; neurodevelopmental disorder; or clinical risk factor condition not meeting full definition for inclusion in Tier 1. For Full list see appendix 1, [HSE Paxlovid Prescribing Protocol](#)*

The following categories of people are NOT eligible for Paxlovid™:

- eGFR <30ml/min
- Certain interacting medications
- Severe liver disease
- Requiring supplemental oxygen
- Unable to swallow tablets

Medication History

A complete list of medications, including as required (prn), over the counter (OTC), herbal medicines and recreational drugs must be established.

Supports available for drug-drug interaction checks:

- Pharmacist supplying medication to patient/resident
- University of Liverpool Drug Interaction Checker (<https://www.covid19-druginteractions.org/>) is a resource providing detailed guidance on identifying and managing Paxlovid™ interactions
- Summary of Product Characteristics for Paxlovid™ ([Paxlovid SmPC](#))
- For more complex Paxlovid™ drug-drug interaction queries that cannot be answered using the above resources, GPs can email a completed template ([NMIC referral template](#)) to nmic@stjames.ie (and cc the community pharmacy).

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Management

- If a decision is made to prescribe Paxlovid™ after reviewing the eligibility criteria and a drug-drug interaction check has been performed, the prescription should be sent to the pharmacy:

Paxlovid™ dosing guidance (reference: [HSE Paxlovid Prescribing Protocol](#)) :

Drug	Treatment
Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir)	300mg nirmatrelvir (two 150mg tablets) with 100mg ritonavir (one 100mg tablet) all taken together orally every 12 hours for 5 days.

A dose reduction is recommended in patients with moderate renal impairment

eGFR (mL/min)	Dose of nirmatrelvir	Dose of Ritonavir	Frequency	Duration
Greater than or equal to 60	300 mg	100 mg	12 hourly	5 days
30-60	150 mg	100 mg	12 hourly	5 days
Less than 30	Not recommended in SmPC *			

- Safety netting: patient/carer to contact GP/out of hour's service or Emergency Department if there are any signs or symptoms of worsening of condition or adverse reactions to Paxlovid™.
- Follow [public health recommendations](#) to reduce the spread of virus

Special attention for patients with moderate renal impairment

The daily blister contains two separated parts each containing two tablets of nirmatrelvir and one tablet of ritonavir corresponding to the daily administration at the standard dose. Therefore, patients with moderate renal impairment should be provided with only one tablet of nirmatrelvir with the tablet of ritonavir to be taken every 12 hours.

Checklist for Paxlovid™ Prescribing:

1. COVID PCR or Antigen positive	
2. Eligibility criteria met	
3. Within 5 days of symptom onset to drug administration	
4. Check medication interactions	
5. Dose guided by recent eGFR	
6. Informed consent	
7. Prescription sent to Pharmacy	
8. Careful safety netting	