



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Seirbhís Aisíocaíochta Cúraim Phríomhúil
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14th September 2022

Circular 024/22

Re: Paxlovid™ (PF-07321332 + ritonavir)

Dear Doctor,

Please find enclosed a communication from Prof Michael Barry, Clinical Lead of the HSE Medicines Management Programme to GPs in respect of Paxlovid™ and the support service available from the National Medicines Information Centre (NMIC).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Flanagan'.

Shaun Flanagan
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement

Re: Paxlovid™ (PF-07321332 + ritonavir)14th September 2022

Dear Colleagues,

As you are aware, Paxlovid™ (PF-07321332 + ritonavir) became available for use in Ireland, in specific circumstances in April 2022 (later referred to as Paxlovid™).

Since this time the National Medicines Information Centre (NMIC) has been available to GPs, through their enquiry answering service, to provide advice on drug-drug interactions relating to the use of Paxlovid™. In addition to the weekday service, a limited weekend service on Saturday and Sunday (and bank holiday Mondays) was initially available.

To date the NMIC has received a total of 222 enquiries relating to Paxlovid™. A total of 1881 co-existing medicines were involved in the drug-drug interaction enquires received. On reviewing the enquiries received by this service to date, the vast majority were submitted on weekdays with limited demand for the service at weekends (and bank holidays).

To enable the NMIC to continue to provide the high quality service to GPs during the week, it is now an appropriate time to step down the weekend (and bank holiday) service and focus resources where the demand exists. This service will remain under review as the NMIC is committed to supporting GPs in the safe and appropriate use of Paxlovid™.

The NMIC will continue to support GPs with the prescribing of Paxlovid™ as follows:

- The service will continue to be available Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. Enquiries received over the weekend will be prioritised for review on Monday according to clinical urgency.
- Through its publications and educational activities, the NMIC will continue to raise awareness and highlight developments associated with the use of Paxlovid™ ([to sign up for NMIC updates, click here](#))

The following supports are available to assist GPs in the review of a medication list for suitability with Paxlovid™:

- [University of Liverpool drug interaction checker](#)
- [Paxlovid™ Summary of Product Characteristics](#)

When required, drug-drug interaction enquiries should be emailed to the NMIC (nmic@stjames.ie) via secure email (e.g. Healthmail) with the patient's list of current medicines using the [NMIC Template](#). This template is available on the HSE-Medicines Management Programme's website; please provide your telephone contact number on the form and copy in the community pharmacy.

With best wishes,



Professor Michael Barry, National Clinical Lead, Medicines Management Programme
www.hse.ie/yourmedicines