



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Bealach amach 5 an M50, An Bóthar Thuaidh, Fionnghlas,
Baile Átha Cliath 11, D11 XKF3.
Guthán: (01) 8647100 Facs: (01) 8343589

Health Service Executive,
Primary Care Reimbursement Service
Exit 5, M50, North Road, Finglas,
Dublin 11, D11 XKF3
Tel: (01) 8647100 Fax: (01) 8343589

21st December 2022

Circular 038/22

Re: Paxlovid™ (PF-07321332 + ritonavir)

Dear Doctor,

Please find enclosed communication from Prof Michael Barry, Clinical Lead, HSE Medicines Management Programme (MMP) in relation to prescribing of Paxlovid™.

Information for patients and the public is available on the HSE website:
<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/paxlovid/>. Further information is also available on the MMP website at
www.hse.ie/yourmedicines.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Flanagan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shaun Flanagan
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement

Re: Paxlovid™ (PF-07321332 + ritonavir)20th December 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™).

In recent days COVID-19 cases and hospitalisations have increased. At this time, I would like to remind prescribers of the availability of Paxlovid™, when indicated for suitable patient populations, for the treatment of COVID-19 in adults who do not require supplemental oxygen and who are at increased risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 ([Circular 020/22](#)).

There are a number of resources available to support the prescribing of Paxlovid™. The HSE and the Irish College of General Practitioners have developed a concise, one page document [Paxlovid™ Prescribing Guidance Summary for Community Settings](#), available on www.antibioticprescribing.ie. This guidance outlines the eligibility criteria and important considerations for prescribing Paxlovid™, including commencement of treatment being time critical (commenced within five days of symptom onset) and availability of renal function test results for appropriate dosing. In addition more detailed information can be found in the [HSE Interim Guidance for the Pharmacological Management of patients with COVID-19](#).

As outlined in my previous correspondence (Circular [012/22](#) and Circular [020/22](#)), due to the risk of drugdrug interactions associated with the use of Paxlovid™, a full review of patient medication history and interaction risk is required prior to initiating a prescription.

The following resources are available to support prescribers in the review of a medication list for suitability with Paxlovid™: ○ [University of Liverpool drug interaction checker](#) ○ [Paxlovid™ Summary of Product Characteristics](#)

If a GP wishes to avail of assistance specifically relating to the potential for drug-drug interactions associated with Paxlovid™, the National Medicines Information Centre (NMIC) is available through their enquiry answering service. This service is available Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. Enquiries received over weekends/bank holidays will be prioritised for review when the service reopens according to clinical urgency. 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](#) which is available on www.hse.ie/yourmedicines; please provide your telephone contact number on the form and copy in the community pharmacy ([Circular 024/22](#)).

With best wishes,



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

Please consult the Summary of Product Characteristics on each occasion prior to initiating treatment with Paxlovid™