

Information Sheet – COVID-19 Treatments: Key Messages for Long-Term Care Facilities

COVID-19 cases are increasing. Staying up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and accessing treatments in a timely manner are the best ways to reduce the risk of hospitalization and death due to the illness.

COVID-19 Treatments are safe, effective, and widely available.

- There is strong scientific evidence that using antiviral treatments reduces the risk of hospitalization and death for those at risk of severe COVID-19.
- Authorized and approved COVID-19 treatments are widely available. There are no supply constraints limiting providers' ability to prescribe treatment.
- Based on current analysis, these treatments are expected to be active against all currently circulating variants.

Treatments should be considered for any patient over the age of 50 or with a high-risk health condition, regardless of vaccination status.

- Patients are more likely than others to get very sick from COVID-19 if:
 - They are 50 years of age or older.
 - They have a compromised or weakened immune system OR they have [one or more health issues](#), heart, lung, or kidney disease; are overweight; have diabetes; severe asthma; or some types of disabilities.
 - They are unvaccinated.
- In short, anyone over the age of 50 and anyone with a high-risk health condition should be prescribed COVID-19 treatment as clinically appropriate.

Treatments must be started early, even if symptoms are mild.

- Treatments must be started within 5 days of symptom onset for oral medications (Paxlovid and Lagevrio) and 7 days of symptom onset for IV medication (Veklury).
- Providers should discuss a [COVID-19 Action Plan](#) in advance with patients in case of infection, including the optimal medication choice and how to access the medication.

The oral antiviral pill Paxlovid (ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir) and the IV administered drug Veklury (remdesivir) are the preferred treatments for eligible patients.

- Paxlovid (ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir) is the preferred oral antiviral and is taken twice daily for 5 days.
 - Paxlovid is not recommended in patients with severe renal (eGFR < 30) or hepatic impairment. Dose reduction for patients with moderate renal impairment (eGFR ≥30-<60) is recommended.
 - For all eligible patients, drug interactions need to be assessed and certain medications may need dose adjustments. (Helpful resources include the [FDA checklist for Paxlovid Prescribing](#) and the [Liverpool drug interaction checker](#)).
 - Preliminary evaluation of drug-drug interactions can be done in advance of a positive test but should be rechecked at the time of treatment initiation.

- For patients for whom Paxlovid is not appropriate, Veklury (remdesivir) IV infused once a day for 3 days is also a preferred treatment option.
 - Veklury is not recommended for use in patients with severe renal (eGFR < 30) or hepatic impairment.
- See the FDA's [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers](#) for detailed information about Paxlovid and the [U.S. Prescribing Information](#) for Veklury.

Lagevrio (molnupiravir) is an alternative oral antiviral for patients for whom neither Paxlovid nor Veklury are clinically appropriate or feasible.

- Lagevrio is taken twice daily for 5 days.
- Lagevrio is not recommended in patients who may be pregnant.
- There are no known drug interactions with Lagevrio based on limited available data.
- See the FDA's [Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers](#) for detailed information about Lagevrio.

Long-term care facilities should ensure timely access to effective COVID-19 treatments for all eligible patients, including through pre-positioning the medications directly at facilities.

- The oral antivirals Paxlovid and Lagevrio are currently being distributed for free by the US Government; contact your long-term care facility's serving pharmacy or covid19therapeutics@hhs.gov for access.
- The oral antivirals can be positioned within a long-term care or skilled nursing facility, following local regulations, so long as they are only dispensed to patients once a prescription is entered and verified.
- Veklury is available commercially for outpatient use through the distributors Cardinal [1-855- 855-0708 / GMB-SPD-CSORDERENTRY@cardinalhealth.com] and Amerisource Bergen [1-800-746-6273 / C19therapies@AmerisourceBergen.com]. Long-term care and skilled nursing facility providers can access this product directly from the distributor or through their servicing pharmacy.

Resources:

- [Decision tree](https://aspr.hhs.gov/COVID-19/Therapeutics/Documents/COVID-Therapeutics-Decision-Aid.pdf) <https://aspr.hhs.gov/COVID-19/Therapeutics/Documents/COVID-Therapeutics-Decision-Aid.pdf>
- [FDA checklist for Paxlovid Prescribing](https://www.fda.gov/media/158165/download) <https://www.fda.gov/media/158165/download>
- [Liverpool drug interaction checker](https://www.covid19-druginteractions.org/checker) <https://www.covid19-druginteractions.org/checker>
- [Paxlovid information one pager](https://aspr.hhs.gov/COVID-19/Therapeutics/Products/Paxlovid/Documents/paxlovid-information-sheet.pdf) <https://aspr.hhs.gov/COVID-19/Therapeutics/Products/Paxlovid/Documents/paxlovid-information-sheet.pdf>
- [Lagevrio information one pager](https://aspr.hhs.gov/COVID-19/Therapeutics/Products/Lagevrio/Documents/Lagevrio-Information-Sheet.pdf) <https://aspr.hhs.gov/COVID-19/Therapeutics/Products/Lagevrio/Documents/Lagevrio-Information-Sheet.pdf>
- [Side by side](https://aspr.hhs.gov/COVID-19/Therapeutics/Documents/side-by-side-overview.pdf) <https://aspr.hhs.gov/COVID-19/Therapeutics/Documents/side-by-side-overview.pdf>
- [COVID-19 Outpatient Therapeutics Locator tool](https://covid-19-therapeutics-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com/) <https://covid-19-therapeutics-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com/>
- [NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines](https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/) <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/>
- [CDC Underlying Medical Conditions Eligibility website](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-care/underlyingconditions.html) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-care/underlyingconditions.html>
- [COVID-19 Personal Action Plan](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/332440-a_fs_covid_plan_final.pdf) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/332440-a_fs_covid_plan_final.pdf
- [Lagevrio FDA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers](https://www.fda.gov/media/155054/download) <https://www.fda.gov/media/155054/download>
- [Paxlovid FDA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers](https://www.fda.gov/media/155050/download) <https://www.fda.gov/media/155050/download>
- [Veklury U.S. Prescribing Information](https://www.gilead.com/-/media/files/pdfs/medicines/covid-19/veklury/veklury_pi.pdf) https://www.gilead.com/-/media/files/pdfs/medicines/covid-19/veklury/veklury_pi.pdf