



PharmacareNEWS

inside

Paxlovid Availability in Nova Scotia

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This communication is to provide you with updated information related to Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) availability in Nova Scotia. Paxlovid is used for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in patients who are at high risk for progression to severe disease.

To date, Paxlovid has been supplied by the federal government at no cost to patients who meet established criteria in Nova Scotia. The federal supply of Paxlovid is ending.

While federal procurement has ended, supply remains in Nova Scotia that can be used at no cost to patients until May 31, 2024 (last day of dispense May 26, 2024 for a 5 day treatment course). This supply is only available through the patient self-referral by completing the provincial Report and Support Form. The [form](#) can be filled out when the patient **books** a PCR test or as soon they test positive on a rapid COVID test either online at <https://c19hc.nshealth.ca/self-report> or by **calling 1-833-797-7772**.

As a reminder, the current [Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir \(Paxlovid\) Referral Criteria](#) can be found at the following link:

https://policy.nshealth.ca/Site_Published/covid19/document_render.aspx?documentRender.IdType=6&documentRender.GenericField=&documentRender.Id=95135

Paxlovid will soon be commercially available. If you choose to prescribe Paxlovid for a patient and access regular market supplies, please familiarize yourself with appropriate prescribing; dosage adjustments may be required depending on renal function. Very importantly, Paxlovid has numerous serious drug interactions with many commonly used medications. Paxlovid may be contraindicated in combination with some medications (e.g. post-transplant immunosuppressants, anticonvulsants) or require modifications to the patient's other drug therapies (e.g. anticoagulants, psychiatric medications and more). Paxlovid specific resources to aid drug interaction management are provided below:

Paxlovid Availability in Nova Scotia Continued...

- [Liverpool COVID-19 Drug Interaction Checker](#)
- [Ontario: Paxlovid Prescribing & Drug Interaction Information | Immunodeficiency Clinic \(hivclinic.ca\)](#)

A 5-day treatment course of Paxlovid costs \$1288 (plus markups and pharmacy fees). A patient's private insurance may or may not provide coverage. At this time, Paxlovid is not funded by Nova Scotia Pharmacare as we continue to utilize the federally procured supply and await recommendations from the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health (CADTH).

In summary, the availability of federally procured Paxlovid at no charge to the patient continues through established channels in Nova Scotia for patients who meet specific clinical [criteria](#). We encourage the use of [Report and Support](#) referrals to the NS Health COVID-19 Non-Severe Treatment Team at this time to reach a [designated prescriber](#) and access federally procured Paxlovid for those at high risk of progression to severe disease. Further updates regarding coverage will be provided in the coming weeks.