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13 October 2025

Dear Healthcare Professional

Re: PAXLOVID® (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) treatment in patients with severe renal impairment

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of revised recommendations for the use of PAXLOVID® in patients with severe renal impairment, and the dosing regimen in this patient population.

PAXLOVID® is indicated for the treatment of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in adults 18 years of age and older, who do not require initiation of supplemental oxygen due to COVID-19 and are at increased risk of progression to hospitalisation or death.

The recommended dosage in patients ***with normal and mildly impaired renal function*** (eGFR > 60 mL/min/1.73 m^2), is 300 mg nirmatrelvir (two 150 mg tablets) with 100 mg ritonavir (one 100 mg tablet) taken together orally every 12 hours for 5 days.

PAXLOVID® can now be prescribed for the treatment of COVID-19 in appropriate patients with **severe renal impairment**. The recommended dose and regime for patients with ***moderate renal impairment*** remain unchanged (see below). The **new** recommendations for patients with ***severe renal impairment*** are as follows:

Renal function	**Days of treatment**	**Dose and dose frequency[a]**
Moderate renal impairment (eGFR ≥30 to <60 mL/ min/1.73m^2)	Days 1 to 5	150 mg nirmatrelvir (one 150 mg tablet) with 100 mg ritonavir (one 100 mg tablet) **twice daily**
Severe renal impairment (eGFR <30 mL/min/1.73m^2) including those requiring haemodialysis[b]	Day 1	300 mg nirmatrelvir (two 150 mg tablets) with 100 mg ritonavir (one 100 mg tablet) **once**
	Days 2 to 5	150 mg nirmatrelvir (one 150 mg tablet) with 100 mg ritonavir (one 100 mg tablet) **once daily**

Abbreviation: eGFR=estimated glomerular filtration rate.

a. PAXLOVID® should be administered at approximately the same time each day for 5 days.
b. On days of haemodialysis, the PAXLOVID® dose should be administered after haemodialysis.

Nirmatrelvir must be taken together with ritonavir. Failure to correctly take nirmatrelvir with ritonavir will result in plasma levels of nirmatrelvir that will be insufficient to achieve the desired therapeutic effect.

PAXLOVID® should be taken as soon as possible after a diagnosis of COVID-19 has been made, and within 5 days of symptom onset, even if baseline COVID-19 symptoms are mild. PAXLOVID® treatment should not be initiated in patients requiring hospitalisation due to severe or critical COVID-19. If a patient requires hospitalisation due to severe or critical COVID-19 after starting treatment with PAXLOVID, the patient should complete the full 5-day treatment course at the discretion of their healthcare provider.

Important information for patients

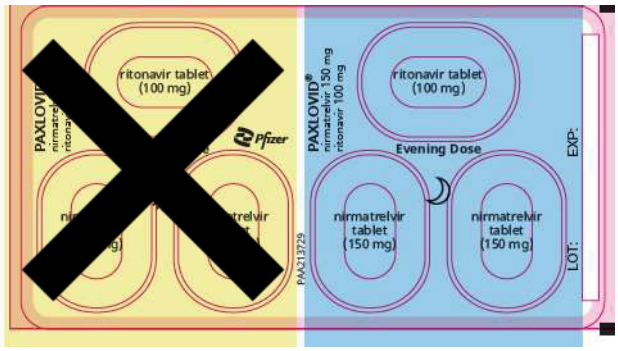
Special attention for patients with severe renal impairment

Healthcare providers should pay special attention to dosing instructions for patients with severe renal impairment and alert the patient that the daily dose pack provided may contain more nirmatrelvir and ritonavir tablets than needed for accurate dosing in these patients.

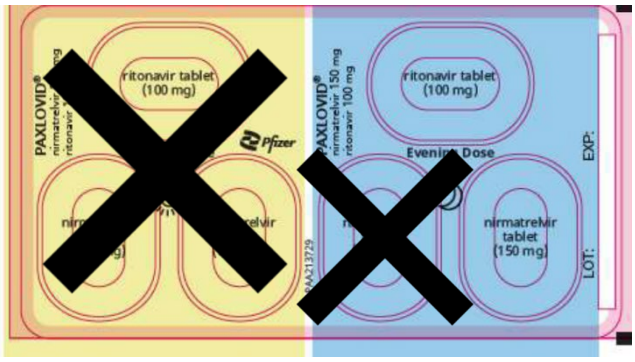
Therefore, patients with severe renal impairment should be alerted that **two tablets of nirmatrelvir with one tablet of ritonavir should be taken once on day 1 followed by one tablet of nirmatrelvir with one tablet of ritonavir once daily on days 2 to 5.**

Instructions on how to re-pack Paxlovid® for dosing in patients with severe renal impairment are provided in the appendix to this letter.

Blister card in the New Zealand pack containing morning and evening dose



Day 1



Days 2 to 5

For your patients with severe renal impairment, stickers with dosing information are available upon request and should be affixed to the pack as per the instructions provided as an appendix to this letter (*Appendix - Re-packing Instructions for Patients with Severe Renal Impairment*). To order the stickers, contact the local Pfizer representative or submit a request to https://www.pmiform.com/NZ

PLEASE REVIEW THE PAXLOVID DATA SHEET BEFORE PRESCRIBING OR DISPENSING.

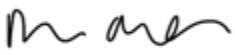
The PAXLOVID® Data Sheet and Consumer Medicine Information can be found at https://www.medsafe.govt.nz

Adverse Event Reporting

Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse events at https://pophealth.my.site.com/carmreportnz/s/ Alternatively, any adverse events experienced with PAXLOVID® can be reported to Pfizer on 0800 736 363 or by email to AUS.AEReporting@pfizer.com

Medical Enquiries
Please direct any medical enquiries for PAXLOVID® to Pfizer Medical Information on 0800 736 363 or online at: https://www.pfizermedicalinformation.co.nz/contact-us

Yours sincerely,



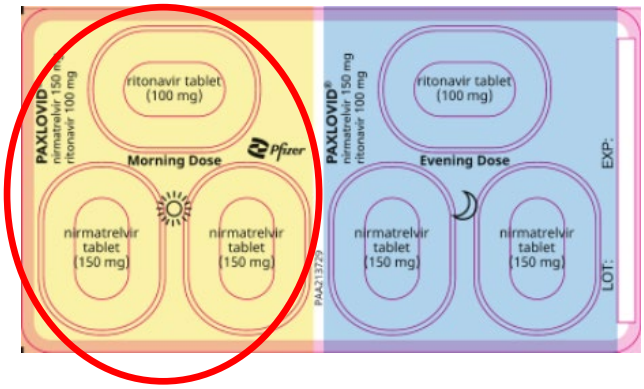
Rebecca Mascarenhas
Senior Medical Manager, COVID-19 Antivirals
Pfizer Australia & Pfizer New Zealand

Appendix - Re-packing Instructions for Patients with Severe Renal Impairment

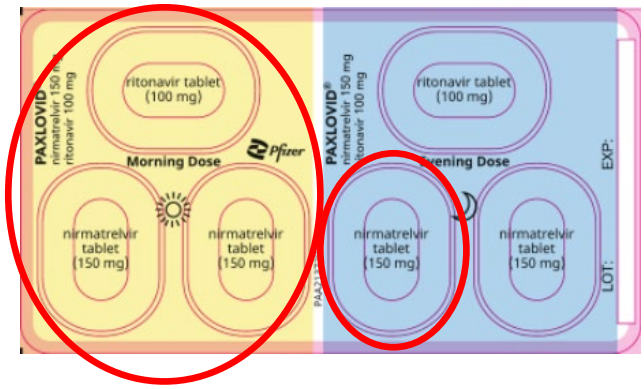
To dispense PAXLOVID® for patients with severe renal impairment, the pharmacist or dispensary technician should:

STEP ONE: Remove all tablets from the yellow section of all blister cards.
Leave the blue section of one blister card unaltered (dose for day 1).
Remove one nirmatrelvir tablet from the blue (evening) dose section of the remaining blister cards (dose for days 2 to 5, see Figure 1 below). The nirmatrelvir tablets that are removed should be the ones closest to the middle of the blister card.

Figure 1: Remove the tablets circled in red from the yellow and blue section of the blister card



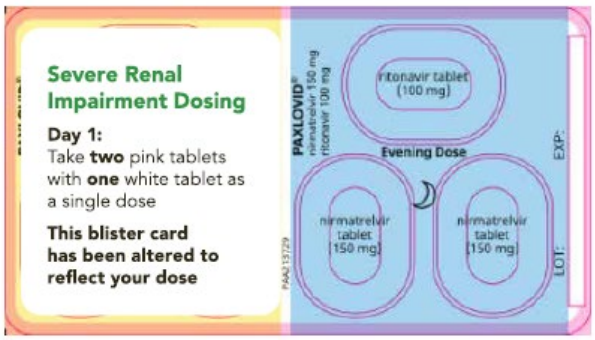
Day 1

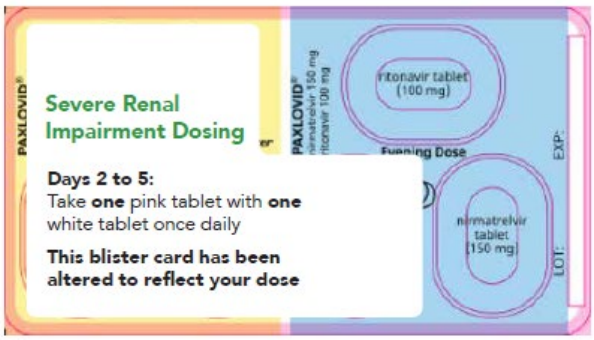


Days 2 to 5

STEP TWO: Affix to the blister card one of the stickers provided to cover the empty blister cavities as shown in Figure 2 below. The exact placement of this sticker is important.

Figure 2: Placement of sticker over dosing instructions and empty blister cavities after removal of nirmatrelvir tablets





STEP THREE: Affix a blank dispensing label to cover the pre-printed quantity of the tablets on the carton as shown in Figure 3 below:

Figure 3: Placement of blank dispensing label over pre-printed quantity of the tablets on carton