

# Dispensing Paxlovid and Monitoring Adverse Drug Events: Quick Reference

## Background

Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid™) is an oral antiviral drug used to treat mild-to-moderate COVID-19 in adults who do not require hospitalization and are at high risk of progressing to serious illness.

## Procedure for Clinical Assessment Fee (PAX-A) PIN: 66128340

After assessment of the Paxlovid prescription, including completion of a drug-drug interaction check, submit a \$30 temporary PAX-A claim the same day as the Paxlovid dispense.

1. Assess prescription including completion of a drug-drug interaction check
2. Communicate with prescriber and patient, as needed
3. Enter claim using **PIN: 66128340** and pharmacist as prescriber (e.g., enter P1 then licence number)

## Dispensing

**Prescription form:** The Ministry of Health [Paxlovid prescription form](#) is not required but is recommended.

**Patients with drug-drug interactions (DDI):** Enter “DDI” at the beginning of the SIG field.

**Patients requiring renal dose adjustments:** Enter “Renal” at the beginning of the SIG field.

**Quantity:** Enter a pack size of one (1) under Quantity, regardless of renal dispenses.

## Follow-up questions

1. COVID-19 symptoms: Worsening? Refer patient to prescriber, family doctor or 911, depending on severity of symptoms
2. Treatment duration: Stopped early? Why?
3. ADEs: Description? Timing? Severity? Management?
4. DDI management plan: Adherence? Reversal plan?
5. Review: PHO orders, vaccination
6. Others as clinically relevant

## Procedures for Paxlovid Follow up (PAX-F) PIN: 66128313

1. Conduct follow-up call with patient on day 6 to day 10
2. Enter claim using **PIN: 66128313** and pharmacist as prescriber (e.g., enter P1 then licence number)
3. In the SIG field, use the coding tool (on back) to document information gathered
4. Record any moderate (Mod) or severe (S) ADEs in the Adverse Reaction field in PharmaNet
  - Use the Paxlovid **DIN: 02524031**
  - E.g., “Fainting (S), Nausea (S), Vomiting (Mod)”

## Classification of ADE severity

- Any ADE that causes a patient to discontinue Paxlovid should be classified as moderate or severe, and then entered in the Adverse Reaction field in PharmaNet
- A single ADE (such as nausea) can range from mild to severe, based on the impact it has on the patient’s daily activities and treatment required:
  - **Mild (M)** – Bothering but mild or transient discomfort. Does not limit or interfere with daily activities. No treatment or non-drug treatments required (e.g., take with food to reduce GI discomfort and nausea)
  - **Moderate (Mod)** – Distinctly annoying, distressing, or intolerable. Limits or interferes with daily activities. Requires at-home or non-invasive treatment (e.g., take dimenhydrinate 30 minutes before to reduce nausea)
  - **Severe (S)** – May be life-threatening, result in persistent or significant disability or hospitalization. Prevents normal daily activities. Requires invasive treatment (e.g., admission to hospital for dehydration caused by intractable vomiting)

## Coding tool

- **Format:** [Pharmacy Phone #]\_[Days taken (#0-5)]\_[Stopped early & reason (YA, YP, YHCP, NA, NN)]\_[ADE #, severity and management (ADE1-10, M/Mod/S, P/RPh/HCP/H)]
- Use underscores between fields to a max of 80 characters

Field	Values	What it means
Pharmacy Phone #	###-###-####	Pharmacy phone number
Days Taken	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	0 to 5 days of completed therapy
Stopped Early/Reason	YA	Yes – Adverse effects
	YP	Yes – Patient choice (felt better/ didn't feel it was helping/ etc.)
	YHCP	Yes – Healthcare provider
	NA	Not stopped early – Adverse effects
	NN	Not stopped early – No adverse effects
ADE #	[ADE1-ADE10]	Which ADE are you recording? *If no ADEs, stop here*
ADE – Severity	M	Mild – Bothering, does not limit/interfere with daily activities
	Mod	Moderate – Annoying, distressing, or intolerable. Interferes with daily activities
	S	Severe – Life-threatening, persistent or significant disability or hospitalization. Prevents normal daily activities
ADE – Management	P	Patient
	RPh	Pharmacist
	HCP	Other healthcare provider
	H	Hospital
Code		What it means
604-358-9457_5_NN		Patient completed all 5 days with no ADEs
604-358-9457_3_YP		Patient took 3 days of medication and chose to discontinue the medication due to reasons other than ADEs
604-358-9457_2_YA_ADE1SH_ADE2SH_ADE3SHCP		Patient took 2 days of medication, stopped early due to ADEs, experienced 2 severe ADEs requiring hospitalization, and 1 severe ADE managed by an HCP other than a pharmacist
604-358-9457_5_NA_ADE1ModRPh_ADE2MP		Patient took all 5 days, did not stop early though there were ADEs, experienced 1 moderate ADE managed by the pharmacist, and 1 mild ADE managed by the patient)

### Days taken

- If patient was dispensed nirmatrelvir/ritonavir and did not take it, enter 0 days
- If patient missed-dose but followed missed dose protocol and completed the entire course, enter 5 days

### Treatment stopped early and reason

- If treatment was stopped early due to ADEs, regardless of who decided to stop it (patient or HCP), enter Yes – YA (Adverse effects)
- If treatment was stopped early for **any reason other than ADEs**, indicate who discontinued it

**ADEs:** ADEs will be entered as format: ADE1[Severity][Management]\_ADE2[Severity][Management]

### ADE – management

- To evaluate the effect of pharmacists on the management of adverse effects as pharmacists are an integral part of a patient's care team
- Many mild and some moderate adverse effects can be managed by the pharmacist using non-drug measures and OTC treatments