Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Seirbhís Aisíocaíochta Cúraim
Phríomhúil Bealach amach 5 an M50, An Bóthar Thuaidh,
Fionnghlas
Baile Átha Cliath 11, D11 XKF3
Guthán: (01) 864 7100 Facs: (01) 834 3589

Health Service Executive, Primary Care Reimbursement Service
Exit 5, M50, North Road, Finglas, Dublin 11, D11 XKF3
Tel: (01) 864 7100 Fax: (01) 834 3589

6th November 2023

Circular 030/23

Re: Paxlovid® (Nirmatrelvir 150 mg + ritonavir 100 mg) film coated tablets

Dear Pharmacist,

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

Please be reminded that ongoing stewardship for this product remains in place. Therefore, pharmacies are still required to forward by Healthmail a copy of the Paxlovid® prescription to pharmacy.response@hse.ie. Please include the pharmacy GMS contract number in the email correspondence to ensure payment of the patient care fee.

Administrative Code	Drug Name	Pack Size	Pharmaceutical Form
89181	Paxlovid 150mg/100mg	30	Film Coated Tabs

Community Pharmacies can continue to order the product through United Drug with normal deliveries, on foot of a valid prescription.

Paxlovid® prescribing guidance is available on www.antibioticprescribing.ie.

Yours faithfully,

Shaun Flanagan
Primary Care Eligibility & Reimbursement

Re: Paxlovid® (nirmatrelvir + ritonavir)

6th November 2023

Dear Colleagues,

Paxlovid® (nirmatrelvir + ritonavir) became available for use in Ireland, in specific circumstances in April 2022 (later referred to as Paxlovid®).

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.

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 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. (Please note, the HSE Interim Guidance is a living document and is currently under review.)

As outlined in my previous correspondence (Circular 012/22, Circular 020/22, Circular 038/22), due to the risk of drug-drug 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. 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/mmp, please provide your telephone contact number on the form and copy in the community pharmacy (Circular 024/22).

Full prescribing information is available in the Paxlovid® Summary of Product Characteristics.

With best wishes,

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

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