



Paxlovid treatment in COVID-19

A patient's guide



What Paxlovid contains

The active substances in this medicine are PF-07321332 and ritonavir.

- Each pink film-coated PF 07321332 tablet contains 150 mg of PF-07321332.
- Each white film-coated ritonavir tablet contains 100 mg of ritonavir.
- The other ingredients in PF 07321332 are microcrystalline cellulose, lactose monohydrate (see section 2, 'Paxlovid contains lactose'), croscarmellose sodium, colloidal silicon dioxide and sodium stearyl fumarate. The film coating contains hypromellose, titanium dioxide, macrogol and iron oxide red.
- The other ingredients in ritonavir are copovidone, sorbitan laurate, silica colloidal anhydrous, calcium hydrogen phosphate anhydrous and sodium stearyl fumarate. The film coating contains hypromellose, titanium dioxide, macrogol, hydroxypropyl cellulose, talc, silica colloidal anhydrous and polysorbate 80.

More information

For more information on tocilizumab, please visit the following site:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-paxlovid/patient-information-leaflet-for-paxlovid> or read the full patient information leaflet (PIL) in the medication box

Authors: Shehryar Khan, Ai-Nee Lim (Antimicrobial Pharmacists)

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

If you have a compliment, complaint or concern please contact our PALS team on 020 7288 5551 or whh-tr.whitthealthPALS@nhs.net

If you need a large print, audio or translated copy of this leaflet please contact us on 020 7288 3182. We will try our best to meet your needs.

Twitter.com/WhitHealth
Facebook.com/WhittingtonHealth

Whittington Health NHS Trust
Magdala Avenue
London
N19 5NF
Phone: 020 7272 3070
www.whittington.nhs.uk

Date published: 14/02/2022
Review date: 14/02/2024
Ref: EIM/AcutMed/PTC-19/01

© Whittington Health
Please recycle

What is Paxlovid?

Paxlovid is an antiviral medicine used for treating mild-to-moderate COVID-19. COVID-19 is caused by a virus. Paxlovid stops the virus multiplying in cells and this stops the virus multiplying in the body. This can help your body to overcome the virus infection and may help you get better faster. Paxlovid contains the active substances PF-07321332 and ritonavir. PF-07321332 is active against the virus that causes COVID-19. Ritonavir prolongs the therapeutic effect of PF-07321332.

Who is it given to?

Paxlovid is used in adults 18 years of age and older with mild-to-moderate COVID-19. It is only used in patients who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID 19, including hospitalisation or death

Who can not have Paxlovid?

Paxlovid interacts with a wide range of prescription, herbal and over-the-counter medications. Please discuss interactions that are relevant to you with a Pharmacist or Doctor.

Do not take Paxlovid: a) if you are allergic to PF 07321332, ritonavir or any of the other ingredients of this medicine. b) if you have severe liver or kidney disease. If you have kidney disease, please talk to your healthcare provider for an appropriate dose of Paxlovid.

How do you take Paxlovid?

Paxlovid consists of 2 medicines: PF-07321332 and ritonavir. The recommended dose is 2 tablets of PF-07321332 with 1 tablet of ritonavir by mouth twice daily (in the morning and at night). The blister foil for each day of treatment is divided in two different coloured sections to indicate which tablets need to be taken at each time of day – one side for the morning (AM) dose and the other side for the evening (PM) dose.

A course of treatment lasts 5 days. For each dose, take all 3 tablets together at the same time. Swallow the tablets whole. Do not chew, break or crush the tablets. Paxlovid can be taken with or without meals.

Side Effects

Not many people have taken Paxlovid. Serious and unexpected side effects may happen. Paxlovid is still being studied, so it is possible that all of the risks are not known at this time. Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people) side effects include diarrhoea, vomiting, altered sense of taste.

Pregnancy and women of child-bearing (continued overleaf)

Paxlovid is not recommended during pregnancy. There is not enough information to be sure that Paxlovid is safe for use in pregnancy. If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant, or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor for advice.

Pregnancy and women of child-bearing age continued.

If you can become pregnant, it is recommended that you refrain from sexual activity or use effective barrier contraception while taking Paxlovid and until after one full menstrual cycle is completed after stopping Paxlovid treatment.

If you are breast-feeding or are planning to breastfeed, tell your healthcare provider before taking this medicine. Breast-feeding is not recommended during treatment and for 7 days after the last dose of Paxlovid. This is because it is not known if Paxlovid gets into breast milk and will be passed to the baby.

How to store Paxlovid

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton or the blister after 'EXP'. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Store below 25 °C and do not refrigerate or freeze. Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.