

Paxlovid® Update: Supply, Pricing and Dispensing (June 2024)

Dear pharmacies,

Please note the following updates and clarifications **regarding publicly funded access to nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid®)**:

- All government-procured supplies of Paxlovid® are now expired. As of May 17, 2024, Paxlovid is listed on the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Formulary with Limited Use criteria for eligible persons under the ODB Program.
- The Ministry of Health has confirmed that Paxlovid is available to purchase through McKesson Canada, Kohl & Frisch, and Shoppers Drug Mart.
- Current supplies of Paxlovid® available to order do not expire until mid-2025. Please contact your wholesaler to confirm expiry dates.

Q: How much does Paxlovid cost?

A: Under the ODB Program, if a pharmacy operator with billing privileges submits a claim to the Ministry for supplying a listed drug product for an eligible person pursuant to a valid prescription, then the Executive Officer will pay the operator the drug benefit price of the listed drug product, **plus** a mark-up on that price, and a dispensing fee (if applicable).

The drug benefit price of Paxlovid® is \$1288.88. The mark-up paid depends on the cost of the listed drug product supplied by the pharmacy. For listed drug products that, when supplied, have a total drug cost between \$1,000 and <\$2000 (e.g., one dose pack of Paxlovid®), the mark-up is 6%. Additionally, the dispensing fee is set out in section 13 of Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 201/96 under the Ontario Drug Benefit Act (ODBA) and is payable if the conditions set out in section 18 of O. Reg. 201/96 are met, with the exception of claims for long-term care home residents for which no dispensing fee is paid.

As per subsection 4(1) of the ODBA pharmacies cannot charge or accept payment from any person other than the Executive Officer (such as eligible persons) in respect of supplying a listed drug product under the ODB Program, except for a deductible or per prescription co-payment, if applicable, or as otherwise authorized under the ODBA. It is an offence under clause 15(1)(a) of the ODBA to charge a person more than is permitted under the ODBA.

Q: What type of COVID-19 test result is sufficient for dispensing Paxlovid®?

A: A positive result from rapid antigen test or PCR test is sufficient for purposes of dispensing Paxlovid®. This includes:

- a rapid antigen test administered by either the individual or a health care provider
- ID NOW™ or another point-of-care polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test
- a lab-based PCR test

Pharmacists must document that the individual has a positive COVID-19 test result and the date of the test prior to dispensing Paxlovid®. This can be done by checking the individual's test results in the Ontario Laboratories Information System (OLIS) or by asking the individual to

confirm whether they have a positive result. A copy of the test result or documented verbal confirmation from the individual must be obtained and retained.

For any questions, please email OPDPinfo@ontario.ca or call the ODB Pharmacy Help Desk at: 1-800-668-6641.

A PDF version of the communication is attached.

Thank you,
Health Programs and Delivery Division

Attachments:

1. Paxlovid® Update: Supply, Pricing and Dispensing (June 2024) - PDF