Participant Information Sheet - Nirmatrelvir/Ritonavir (Paxlovid™) x 5 Days

**Please read this summary before you begin taking Paxlovid™. This information sheet is a summary and does not contain all the information about this medication. Please speak with your health care provider or call the toll-free study safety line (XXX-XXX-XXXX) if you have any questions about taking the medication.**

Thank you for taking part in the Canadian Adaptive Platform Trial of Treatments for COVID in Community Settings (CanTreatCOVID) trial. This document contains some information about the trial medication that you have been given.

Treatment Information

The treatment that you have received is a combination of two antiviral drugs, nirmatrelvir and ritonavir, called Paxlovid™, a new oral (i.e., taken by mouth) medication that has been developed for the treatment of COVID-19.

Paxlovid™ was authorized by Health Canada to treat adults with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are at high risk of progressing to serious disease, including hospitalization or death. Paxlovid™ works by stopping the virus that causes COVID-19 from multiplying in the body. This keeps the virus level in the body low and helps the immune system to overcome the infection.

Some research has found that Paxlovid™ may help to treat COVID-19. However, these studies were mostly conducted in unvaccinated participants and did not consider outcomes like reducing the development of long COVID. As most Canadians are now vaccinated and many people infected with COVID are experiencing long COVID, we have included Paxlovid™ in the CanTreatCOVID trial upon the recommendation of the Canadian COVID-19 Out-Patient Therapeutics Committee.

**Storage**

Store the medication at room temperature (between 15°C and 30°C) and keep out of reach and site of children. Do not refrigerate or freeze.

Dose and Administration

Paxlovid consists of two medications that are packaged together. These include nirmatrelvir, a 150mg pink tablet, and ritonavir, a 100mg white tablet.

* Take 2 pink tablets of nirmatrelvir (150mg each) and 1 white table of ritonavir (100mg) at the same time by mouth each day (in the morning and in the evening) for 5 days. **Each time, all three tablets should be taken at the same time**.
* Take Paxlovid™ with or without food, however, please ensure that you swallow the tablets whole (do not break, chew, or crush the tablets).
* Take the 1st dose as soon as the medication arrives as long as it is within 5 days of the start of your symptoms, and you can leave at least a 4-hour gap before the evening dose. For example, the 1st dose can be taken at 5pm and the second dose at 9 pm or later on day 1. If you cannot leave a 4-hour gap before your evening dose, take the 1st dose in the evening and the 2nd dose the next morning, 12 hours apart. After this, the medication should be continued morning and evening from day 2 onwards.
* **Please make sure you complete the 5-day course of Paxlovid™ that has been provided to you, even if you feel better**. This will reduce the chances of a treatment-resistant version of COVID-19 developing.
* If you are taking ritonavir or cobicistat-containing medicine to treat hepatitis C or Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), you should continue to take your medication as prescribed by your health care provider.
* If you decide that you no longer wish to take the medication, please notify the study staff and return the remaining tablets to your local pharmacy and record when you stopped taking the medication in your study diary and surveys.

**Missed Dose**

If you miss a dose of Paxlovid and it is within 8 hours of the time you usually take it, take the missing dose as soon as you remember. If it has been more than 8 hours, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at your regular time. **Do NOT take 2 doses of Paxlovid™ at the same time**.

**Overdose**

If you have taken too much Paxlovid™, contact your healthcare provider, local emergency department, or poison control immediately, even if you are not experiencing any overdose symptoms.

Exclusion Criteria

Before you were enrolled in the trial, you were asked if you met any of the following reasons for not taking Paxlovid™. **If anything changed since your enrollment and you now meet any of the following criteria, please contact the study team, and do not take Paxlovid™**.

* You were or are admitted to hospital or were or are in an emergency department for more than 24 hours.
* You previously enrolled in the CanTreatCOVID trial or are currently participating in a clinical trial which involves taking a new medication for COVID-19.
* You are currently taking Paxlovid™ or a medication that is not compatible with Paxlovid™.
* You are or may be pregnant, or you are of childbearing potential and NOT willing to use a highly effective contraceptive.
* You are breastfeeding.
* You are allergic to nirmatrelvir, ritonavir, or any of the other ingredients in Paxlovid™.
* You have galactose intolerance, total lactase deficiency, or glucose-galactose malabsorption.
* You have severe liver disease, characterized by characterized by severe ascites, encephalopathy, jaundice, or prolonged INR. People with liver disease without any of these features are eligible.
* You have a level of kidney disease such that you are not suitable to take Paxlovid™.

**Pregnancy and Breastfeeding**

No research has been conducted to study the effect of Paxlovid™ in those who are pregnant or breastfeeding. For those who are pregnant and an unborn baby, there could be significant risks associated with taking the medication that we are not yet aware of. You cannot take this medication if pregnant, planning to become pregnant or breastfeeding Therefore, it is important that participants of childbearing potential use effective contraceptives.

**If you become pregnancy while taking Paxlovid™, stop taking the medication and call the toll-free study safety line (XXX-XXX-XXXX)**. If this occurs, you will be withdrawn from the trial. There is no penalty for being withdrawn from the trial. Please also inform your health care provider that you were taking Paxlovid™ when you became pregnant.

Safety

**Paxlovid and Taking Other Medications**

Taking Paxlovid™ at the same time as some other medications can cause mild to serious side effects and/or can stop Paxlovid™ or the other medications from working properly. Before you were enrolled in the trial, you were asked which medications you were currently taking and with your permission, if granted, a medication list was also obtained from your usual pharmacy. A pharmacist reviews these medications to determine if it was safe for you to take Paxlovid™. **If anything changed since your enrollment and you are now taking any new medication(s), please contact the toll-free safety line or the study team to determine if it is still safe for you to take Paxlovid™. Do not start taking Paxlovid™ until you have confirmed this.**

Please also tell your health care provider or pharmacist that you are taking Paxlovid™ before starting any new medication(s).

**Side Effects**

Taking Paxlovid™ can cause side effects. All possible side effects are not listed below and Paxlovid™ is still being studied, so it is possible that all the side effects are not known at this time. If you experience any side effects not listed here, please tell your healthcare provider and contact the toll-free safety line. Any symptoms reported in your daily diary are monitored by our study team, who will call you if there any symptoms of concern. A member of the study team will also contact you one day after you begin taking the medication to make sure there are no issues.

**Possible Side Effects of Paxlovid are:**

* Altered sense of taste
* Diarrhea
* Muscle pain
* Vomiting
* High blood pressure
* Headache

Please see the table below for serious side effects that may occur, and what to do about them.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Symptom/Effect** | **Talk to your Healthcare Provider** | **Stop Taking the Medication and Get Immediate Medical Help** |
| **Common** | | |
| High blood pressure | X |  |
| **Severe allergic reaction**: skin rash, hives, itching of the skin, swelling under the skin, swelling of the mouth, lips, tongue, face and extremities, swelling and tightness of the throat, hoarseness, low blood pressure, fainting, weakness, difficulty in swallowing or breathing. |  | X |
| **Rare** | | |
| **Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) (severe skin rash)**: redness, blistering and/or peeling of the skin and/or inside of the lips, eyes, mouth, nasal passages or genitals, accompanied by fever, chills, headache, cough, body aches or swelling. |  | X |
| **Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN) (severe skin reaction)**: redness, blistering and/or peeling of large areas of the skin. |  | X |
| **Liver problems**: yellow skin or whites of eyes, nausea, tiredness, loss of appetite, fever, skin rash, abdominal pain, pale stool, or dark coloured urine. | X |  |

**Emergencies**

If you experience a medical emergency related to taking Paxlovid™, please contact 911 or your local emergency department.