

Community pharmacy dispensing of oral anti-viral medications for COVID-19

Effective January 21, 2022, pharmacies dispensing oral anti-viral medications for COVID-19 patients using the provincial supply of medications may claim:

- dispensing fees of up to the maximum Pharmacare dispensing fee in effect in the *Pharmacare Tariff Agreement* and
- a special fee of \$3.50.

To be eligible for coverage, the medication must be prescribed by an NSH-authorized prescriber (a prescriber list will be provided). All persons requiring the medication in Nova Scotia are eligible for coverage, including non-residents. Initially, the only product eligible for coverage is Paxlovid™ (DIN 02524031).

Claims for patients with a Nova Scotia health card must be submitted electronically using the following CPhA Claims Standard field content:

Claims Submission Fields for COVID 19 Oral Antiviral Medications		
Field #	Field Name	Content
D.56.03	DIN/GP#/PIN	Eligible DINs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paxlovid 02524031
D.57.03	Special Service Code	003 (pharmacist consultation)
D.58.03	Quantity	000001 (one)
D.61.03	Prescriber ID	Licence number
D.65.03	Intervention Code	ED
D.66.03	Drug Cost/Product Value	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.67.03	Cost Upcharge	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.68.03	Professional Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ To March 31, 2022: \$12.39▪ April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023: \$12.54
D.72.03	Special Services Fee(s)	3500 (\$3.50) *

* The copayment and/or deductible **will not** be applied to this claim.

Delivery charges

For patients who have no options available for the pick-up of the medication, coverage for delivery services is available for patients. In such cases, pharmacies may submit a claim using a special PIN based on actual costs incurred. Initially, the only product eligible for coverage of fees is Paxlovid™ (DIN 02524031). Claims for delivery charges must be supported by a documented invoice of actual cost incurred, which must be available at the time of audit. The following must be noted by the pharmacist on the invoice to validate it was in relation to an eligible COVID 19 oral antiviral medication:

- Drug name and/or DIN of eligible antiviral product delivered
- Patient's Nova Scotia health card number
- Full name, license number and signature of dispensing pharmacist
- Full name and license number of prescriber

A copy of the associated Pharmacare claim printed and attached to the invoice would also suffice for documentation.

If delivery was provided by pharmacy staff and not an external delivery service (so there is no invoice), the maximum amount eligible for reimbursement is \$10. Documentation must be available for audit purposes indicating the pharmacy provided the delivery service directly.

Claims for delivery services for patients with a Nova Scotia health card must be submitted electronically using the following CPhA Claims Standard field content. **The delivery cost must be entered in the Professional Fee field and the Prescriber ID must be the license number of the dispensing pharmacist.**

CPhA Claims Standard – COVID Oral Anti-Viral Delivery Fee (General)		
Field #	Field Name	Content
D.56.03	DIN/GP#/PIN	93899829
D.58.03	Quantity	000001 (one)
D.61.03	Prescriber ID	Licence number
D.66.03	Drug Cost/Product Value	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.67.03	Cost Upcharge	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.68.03	Professional Fee	DDDDD (dollar value)

Dispensing and delivery for non-residents

Claims for dispensing to patients who do not have a Nova Scotia health card cannot be submitted to DHW electronically. The drug dispense should be recorded in the pharmacy's software per usual practice and DHW will access dispense records from non-residents from the provincial *Drug Information System* (DIS) on a bi-weekly basis to submit bottom-line adjustments to Medavie Blue Cross for inclusion on the pharmacy's pay statement. This is similar to the process used for COVID-19 immunization payments.

Should **delivery services for non-residents** be required, pharmacies must submit an electronic copy of the invoice to DHW by email to pharm.serv@novascotia.ca or by fax to 902-428-3400. The cost incurred will be added to the pharmacy's bottom-line adjustment. The following must be documented on the invoice that is submitted to DHW:

- Pharmacy license number and name
- Pharmacy MSI provider number
- Drug name and DIN of eligible antiviral product delivered
- Drug Information System (DIS) prescription number
- Full name and license number of prescriber

- Full name, license number and signature of dispensing pharmacist

If delivery was provided directly by the pharmacy (no invoice), the information above and **the date of delivery** should be submitted, and the claim will be reimbursed at the maximum non-invoice rate of \$10.

Questions about billing for non-residents may be directed to pharm.serv@novascotia.ca.

Accessing medication supply

Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid™) is currently being supplied to Provinces and Territories through an allocation process as determined by the Public Health Agency of Canada. Allocations will be received in approximately monthly intervals and quantities will fluctuate. Considering the narrow window of time between receipt of a positive test and need to initiate treatment, Nova Scotia is prepositioning nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid™) equitably throughout the province in designated pharmacies and hospitals. Sites will dispense nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid™) in accordance with procedures outlined by Nova Scotia Health upon the receipt of a prescription from a designated prescriber for patients that meet eligibility criteria.

The Provincial Drug Distribution Program (PDDP), responsible for medication procurement and distribution to hospital pharmacies throughout Nova Scotia is coordinating the distribution of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid™).

As supply levels in the country increase this provincial distribution model will be adapted accordingly.

If your pharmacy depletes its inventory and requires more before the next monthly allocation, please do the following:

1. Identify the closest Pharmacy on the list of designated pharmacies to determine if there is opportunity to share supply or transfer a prescription.
2. Contact the closest hospital on the list of designated pharmacies to arrange a transfer of stock to your pharmacy (e-mail lisa.grandyallen@nshealth.ca to help facilitate this process).
3. Contact PDDP to determine if an emergency allocation is available by emailing pddpcustomerservice@nshealth.ca with the subject heading: Paxlovid.