

# Memorandum

**Date:** May 11, 2022

**To:** AHS Physicians  
Primary Health Care physicians  
Zone Directors

**From:** Dr. Mark Joffe  
VP and Medical Director  
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Alberta Health Services  
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**RE:** Eligibility criteria for Paxlovid™ and Remdesivir expanded

Beginning Wednesday, May 11, 2022 Alberta Health Services is expanding the eligibility criteria for Paxlovid™ and Remdesivir for patients who have tested positive for COVID-19.

Treatment must be initiated **within five days of symptom onset for Paxlovid™ and seven days for Remdesivir.**

Treatment will be offered to patients who are most likely to develop severe COVID-19 illness and are at a greater risk of being hospitalized. The evidence around who is most at risk for severe outcomes is evolving. These criteria will continue to be reviewed.

## Treatment eligibility:

Age	0 to 1 dose	2 doses	3 doses	Regardless of Vaccine Status
18+ with one or more pre-existing health conditions or pregnant	✓	✗	✗	✗
55+ or Indigenous 45+	✓	✗	✗	✗
60+ or Indigenous 50+ with one or more pre-existing health conditions	✓	✓	✗	✗
70+ or Indigenous 60+ with 2 or more pre-existing health conditions	✓	✓	✓	✗
Immunocompromised*	✓	✓	✓	✓
Living in long-term care or designated supportive living	✓	✓	✓	✓

\*Immunocompromised patients under 18 years of age should consult with their specialist for consideration of treatment. Transplant patients should **NOT** be offered Paxlovid™ due to the potential for life-threatening drug interactions.

**1. Unvaccinated or have received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and are either:**

- Age 55 or older
- Indigenous, and age 45 or older
- Age 18 and older with a pre-existing health condition<sup>+</sup>
- pregnant

**2. Two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine and are either:**

- Age 60 or older AND have ONE or more pre-existing health condition(s) <sup>+</sup>
- Indigenous and 50 years of age or older AND have ONE or more pre-existing health condition(s) <sup>+</sup>

**3. Three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine and are either:**

- Age 70 or older AND have TWO or more pre-existing health condition(s)
- Indigenous and 60 years or older AND have TWO or more pre-existing health condition(s) <sup>+</sup>

**4. Immunocompromised (vaccinated or unvaccinated), due to reasons including but not limited to:**

- have received a transplant – solid organ or stem cell (Transplant patients should **NOT** receive Paxlovid™ due to the potential for life-threatening drug interactions but are eligible for other therapies, such as Remdesivir. Transplant patients should be assessed and treated through the centralized Outpatient Treatment Program by calling 1-844-343-0971 or through their transplant specialist. All prescribers in the community including Primary Care physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Pharmacists should refer transplant patients to the centralized team or the patient's specialist/team.
- is an oncology (cancer) patient who has received a dose of any IV or oral chemotherapy or other immunosuppressive treatment since December 2020
- has an inflammatory condition (e.g., rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, inflammatory bowel disease) and has received a dose of any systemic immunosuppressive treatment since December 2020.

**5. Living in long-term care or some designated supportive living sites (DSL4 and 4D), regardless of vaccine status.**

<sup>+</sup> Pre-existing Health Conditions include:

- diabetes (taking medication for treatment)
- obesity (BMI >30)
- chronic kidney disease (estimated glomerular filtration rate, <60 ml per minute per 1.73 m2 of body-surface area)
- congestive heart failure (New York Heart Association class II, III, or IV)
- chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and moderate-to-severe asthma

**Patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 and whose symptoms began less than four days ago can call their family doctor if they believe they are eligible to receive Paxlovid™ or if their family physician isn't prescribing yet, they can call the dedicated line at 1-844-343-0971.**

Any physician, nurse practitioner and prescribing pharmacists, in the province can now prescribe Paxlovid™ to eligible patients. Support is available to prescribers through the Outpatient COVID-19 Treatment Program team if they have questions. More information is available online at [ahs.ca/covidopt](https://ahs.ca/covidopt).

The eligibility criteria were expanded by the Therapeutics Working Group. Current criteria focus on patients who may not respond to vaccine because they are immunocompromised, or are under-vaccinated and are at greater risk of progressing to severe disease.



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