January 20, 2022

Provider Alert: Paxlovid Guidance

Dear Santa Barbara County Health Care Providers,

Due to a relative scarcity of oral anti-viral medications for COVID, we request you to follow the guidance below to prioritize recipients. The oral medications are available at three pharmacies: Riteaid in Santa Maria, CVS in Lompoc and CVS in Goleta (link below). The FQHC clinics do have an additional supply of oral anti-virals for their patients through their own pharmacy.

Please make sure to review the prescribing information in detail and check for drug interactions prior to prescribing.

Paxlovid should be prioritized in the following patients who test positive on SARS-CoV2 testing and present within 5 days of mild/moderate symptom onset:

- Regardless of vaccine status-immunocompromised individuals or individuals on immunosuppressive medications*
- 75 years or older regardless of vaccine status or risk factors
- 65-74 years who are incompletely vaccinated (e.g., no vaccination or un-boosted) OR have risk factors for severe illness**

*Immunocompromising conditions or suppressive medications include the following:
  - Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
  - Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
  - Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
  - Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
  - Advanced or untreated HIV infection
  - Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (20 mg per day of Prednisone or greater) OR other drugs that may suppress your immune response (e.g., Biologics, Calcineurin inhibitors, Janus kinase inhibitors, etc., if the packaging insert of the drug indicates that the medication can increase the risk of infection or development of lymphoma)
**Risk Factors for severe illness include the following:** cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease, chronic lung disease, diabetes, BMI >30

**Please Note:** PAXLOVID is contraindicated with drugs that are highly dependent on CYP3A for clearance and for which elevated concentrations are associated with serious and/or life-threatening reactions:

- Alpha_1_-adrenoreceptor antagonist: alfuzosin
- Analgesics: pethidine, piroxicam, propoxyphene
- Antianginal: ranolazine
- Antiarrhythmic: amiodarone, dronedarone, flecainide, propafenone, quinidine
- Anti-gout: colchicine
- Antipsychotics: lurasidone, pimozide, clozapine
- Ergot derivatives: dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, methylergonovine
- HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors: lovastatin, simvastatin
- PDE5 inhibitor: sildenafil (Revatio®) when used for pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH)
- Sedative/hypnotics: triazolam, oral midazolam

PAXLOVID is contraindicated with drugs that are potent CYP3A inducers where significantly reduced nirmatrelvir or ritonavir plasma concentrations may be associated with the potential for loss of virologic response and possible resistance. PAXLOVID cannot be started immediately after discontinuation of any of the following medications due to the delayed offset of the recently discontinued CYP3A inducer [see Drug Interactions (7.3)]:

- Anticancer drugs: apalutamide
- Anticonvulsant: carbamazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin
- Antimycobacterials: rifampin
- Herbal products: St. John’s Wort (*hypericum perforatum*)

For additional clinical information on Paxlovid, please see the FDA’s FAQ.

The supply of Paxlovid is currently limited you can use COVID-19 Public Therapeutic Locator to find the pharmacies and clinics in Santa Barbara County that have Paxlovid and other COVID-19 therapeutics.