

 Saskatchewan Ministry of Health Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch	Section <i>Pharmacy Professional Services</i>	Reference DP-PPS-9
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PAXLOVID™ (NIRMATRELVIR AND RITONAVIR) ASSESSMENT AND PRESCRIBING POLICY and PROCEDURES		

POLICY

- The Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch (DPEBB) will pay registered pharmacies for services provided relating to Paxlovid™ assessment and prescribing as outlined in Table 1 including:
 - Paxlovid™ Ineligibility/Referral Assessment Fee: Other Prescribers (IRAF-O)
 - Paxlovid™ Ineligibility/Referral Assessment Fee: Pharmacist Prescriber (IRAF-P)
 - Level II “Other Diseases” Prescriptive Authority Fee: Covid-19 (Paxlovid™) (ODF-P)
- All community pharmacies are eligible to participate in the distribution of Paxlovid™ after registering with DPEBB as a Paxlovid™ providing pharmacy.
- Pharmacies must express their interest in distributing Paxlovid™ by emailing dpebimmunizations@health.gov.sk.ca. Pharmacies that have previously registered remain on the list of providing pharmacies until requested to be removed.
- **No incentives shall be provided** by the Proprietor, or an agent on behalf of the Proprietor, to any other person in relation to the provision of publicly-funded Paxlovid™.
“Incentives” means any money, gifts, donations to a charity, rebates, refunds, customer loyalty programs, points, coupons, discounts, goods, dividends, and/or rewards which can be redeemed for a gift or other benefit.

PURPOSE

- To improve public access to Paxlovid™ for Saskatchewan residents.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

- *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act*
- *The Prescription Drugs Act (Saskatchewan)*
- *The Drug Schedules Regulations, 1997 Amendment Regulations*
- *The Health Administration Act*

ELIGIBILITY

- Patients with a valid Saskatchewan Health Services Number.

PROCEDURE - ASSESSMENT OF PAXLOVID™ PRESCRIPTION (OTHER PRESCRIBER)

The Pharmacist will:

- Remain up-to-date with provincial Paxlovid™ dispensing process and review the medSask website, <https://medsask.usask.ca/covid-19-treatments>, for supporting documents and information on COVID-19 Therapeutics.
- Ensure the Paxlovid™ prescription for eligible patients is issued on the Paxlovid™ Prescription for Limited Access Exception Drug Status (EDS) Application, <https://medsask.usask.ca/sites/medsask/files/2024-05/Paxlovid%20Prescription%20for%20LAEA.pdf>, developed by medSask.
- Assess the Paxlovid™ prescription by:
 - Reviewing the completed Paxlovid™ Prescription for Limited Access EDS Application, <https://medsask.usask.ca/sites/medsask/files/2024-05/Paxlovid%20Prescription%20for%20LAEA.pdf>, for appropriateness
 - Review the patient's active medication list by reviewing their pharmacy profile, PIP profile and through discussion with the patient or their agent to identify any actual or potential drug interactions.
- Contact the prescriber to follow-up on treatment concerns that may require alternative therapy (e.g. remdesivir) or may result in the Paxlovid™ not being distributed to the patient.

The Pharmacy will:

- Submit the IRAF-O to the DPEBB as per Appendix I, when eligible.
- Retain the Paxlovid™ Prescription for Limited Access EDS Application form as per the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals Reference Manual - [Record Retention and Destruction](https://www.saskpharm.ca/document/5233/REF_Record_Keeping_Requirements_20190919.pdf) guidelines.
https://www.saskpharm.ca/document/5233/REF_Record_Keeping_Requirements_20190919.pdf
- Upon request, provide documentation related to the provision of Paxlovid™ and associated fees to the DPEBB within two business days.

The Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch will:

- Pay pharmacies the IRAF-O upon receipt of the electronic claim.
- Request and review documentation to confirm pharmacists and pharmacies have adhered to the Paxlovid™ dispensing process, including the use of the Paxlovid™ Prescription for Limited Access EDS Application.
- Recover related fees if the DPEBB determines, based on its review, there was inappropriate submission for this fee.
- Regularly review the Paxlovid™ Assessment and Prescribing Policy and Procedure as required.

PROCEDURE - PHARMACIST PRESCRIBING FOR PAXLOVID™

The Pharmacist will:

- Adhere to the *Regulatory Bylaws of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals*.
- Adhere to the Mild COVID-19 Prescribing Guidelines (SK) | medSask, <https://medsask.usask.ca/mild-covid-19-disease-prescribing-guidelines>, to determine appropriate action in the treatment of Mild COVID-19 Disease or make a referral to a physician or nurse practitioner when indicated.
- Fully complete all sections of the medSask Pharmacist Assessment – Mild COVID-19 Record (PAR) https://medsask.usask.ca/sites/medsask/files/2025-04/%28SK%29%20Mild_COVID-19_PAR%20%282024%29.pdf
- Remain up-to-date with provincial Paxlovid™ dispensing process and review the medSask [website](#) for supporting documents and information on COVID-19 Therapeutics.

The Pharmacy will:

- Submit the Paxlovid™ or Paxlovid Renal Pack™ drug claim to the DPEBB using usual and customary dispensing fee and mark-up as per Appendix III if the patient is deemed eligible for therapy through pharmacist assessment.
- Submit the ODP-P or IRAF-P as per Appendix II or Appendix IV, as appropriate based on the clinical outcome of the patient assessment.
- Retain the copy of the medSask Pharmacist Assessment – Mild COVID-19 Record (PAR) as per the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals requirements. https://www.saskpharm.ca/document/5233/REF_Record_Keeping_Requirements_20190919.pdf
- Provide copies of the medSask Pharmacist Assessment – Mild COVID-19 Record (PAR) and other relevant documentation upon DPEBB's request as part of its review of adherence to this policy within 2 business days.

The Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch will:

- Pay pharmacies the ODF-P or IRAF-P upon receipt of the electronic claim.
- Request and review the medSask Pharmacist Assessment – Mild COVID-19 Record (PAR) and relevant documentation as requested to confirm pharmacists and pharmacies have adhered to the Paxlovid™ Assessment and Prescribing Policy and Procedures.
- Recover related fees if the DPEBB determines, based on its review, there was inappropriate submission for this fee.
- Regularly review and update the Paxlovid™ Assessment and Prescribing Policy and Procedures as required.

PROCEDURE – DISPENSING OF PAXLOVID™

The Pharmacist will:

- Ensure the Paxlovid™ prescription has been completed, including documentation of EDS eligibility if applicable. Note: Paxlovid may be dispensed if the patient does not meet EDS criteria, but it will be at the cost of the patient (physician/nurse practitioner prescribing only).

- Request Exceptional Drug Status through the Limited Access EDS Application, [https://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/PDFs/Limited%20Access%20Exception%20Drug%20Status%20\(EDS\)%20Application%20June%202023%202024%20User%20Guide.pdf](https://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/PDFs/Limited%20Access%20Exception%20Drug%20Status%20(EDS)%20Application%20June%202023%202024%20User%20Guide.pdf), when applicable.
- Provide the Paxlovid™ prescription in a timely manner to meet the requirement to begin treatment within five days of symptom onset. When renal dose adjustment is required, provide Paxlovid Renal Pack™ or adjust Paxlovid™ blister packs by removing and disposing unnecessary nirmatrelvir tablets, as prescribed.
- Support patient management of self-limiting adverse reactions and treatment concerns as appropriate.

The pharmacy will:

- Submit the Paxlovid™ or Paxlovid Renal Pack™ drug claim to the DPEBB using usual and customary dispensing fee and mark-up as per Appendix III.

The DPEBB will:

- Pay pharmacies the usual and customary dispensing fee and mark-up for Paxlovid™ or Paxlovid Renal Pack™

Table 1: Billing Codes and Claim Limitations

Service	Details	pseudoDIN/DIN	Fee	Claim Limitations
*Paxlovid™ Ineligibility/Referral Assessment Fee: Other Prescribers (IRAF-O)	Pharmacist assessment of a prescription issued by another healthcare provider (i.e., physician, nurse practitioner) and determines that the patient is ineligible and/or requires referral back to the prescriber for other more suitable treatment (e.g., remdesivir).	00951377	\$25.00	Maximum of TWO (2) claims in a 365-day period per patient Must be submitted as a quantity of one (1).
*Paxlovid™ Ineligibility/Referral Assessment Fee: Pharmacist Prescriber (IRAF-P)	Pharmacist assessment of a patient who initially met eligibility criteria but upon further review of the patient's medical and/or drug history, the pharmacist determines that the patient is ineligible and/or requires referral back to a primary care physician, Nurse Practitioner or specialist for other more suitable treatment (e.g., remdesivir).	00951376	\$25.00	Maximum of TWO (2) claims in a 365-day period per patient Must be submitted as a quantity of one (1).
Level II "Other Diseases" Prescriptive Authority Fee: Covid-19 (Paxlovid™) (ODF-P)	When a pharmacist under Level II "Other Disease" prescriptive authority issues a Paxlovid™ prescription using the medSask Mild-COVID-19 Disease Prescribing Guidelines and medSask Pharmacist Assessment – Mild COVID-19 Record (PAR)	00951375	\$25.00	Maximum of TWO (2) claims in a 365-day period per patient Must be submitted as a quantity of one (1).

****These fees are unique to Paxlovid™ and are not eligible in conjunction with any other DPEBB professional service programs.***

- Please note: DPEBB will not accept paper claims.
- If you are unable to submit the record of the Paxlovid™ drug claim electronically through your Practice Management System, please use the secure DPEBB web page by logging on to <https://www.drugplan.health.gov.sk.ca>.
- If you are not sure how to install the WEB certificate, please contact your software vendor.

APPENDIX I:
Paxlovid™ Ineligibility/Referral Assessment Fee – Other Prescriber Billing Procedure

If upon pharmacist assessment of a prescription issued by another healthcare provider it is determined that the patient is ineligible and/or requires referral back to the prescriber for other more suitable treatment (e.g., remdesivir):

1. Submit the claim using the ***Paxlovid™ Ineligibility/Referral Assessment Fee: Other Prescribers*** DIN (00951377) with an \$25.00 fee in the acquisition cost (AC) field.
 2. Submit the IRAF-O claim for adjudication to DPEBB as **a single transaction**.
 3. Ensure billing occurs on a real-time basis and use the Billing Codes and Claim Limitations listed in Table 1.
- The DPEBB pays 100% of the \$25.00 fee to the pharmacy.
 - Ensure the following fields are completed as follows:

• PATIENT IDENTIFIER	= nine-digit Health Services Number (HSN)
• DISPENSING DATE	= date of activity (e.g., June 3, 2024)
• RX NUMBER	= enter the sequential RX#
• HEALTH PROVIDER ORGANIZATION ID	= SKCP
• HEALTH PROVIDER ID	= Pharmacist ID number (e.g., D1234)
• PHARMACIST ORGANIZATION ID	= SK
• PHARMACIST ID	= Pharmacist ID number (e.g., D1234)
• DIN	= 00951377
• COMPOUNDING FEE (CF)	= \$0.00
• COMPOUND NAME	= blank
• QUANTITY (QTY)	= 1
• DAYS SUPPLY	= 1
• ACQUISITION COST (AC)	= \$25.00
• DISPENSING FEE (DF)	= \$0.00
• MARKUP	= 00/ 00/ 00
• TOTAL RX COST	= \$25.00
• PATIENT PAID	= \$0.00
• ADJUDICATION FLAG	= Y

APPENDIX II:

Paxlovid™ Ineligibility/Referral Assessment Fee – Pharmacist Prescriber Billing Procedure

If upon a pharmacist assessment of a patient who initially met eligibility criteria for Paxlovid™ prescribing by a pharmacist it is determined after the review of the patient's medical and/or drug history, that the patient is ineligible and/or requires referral back to a primary care physician, Nurse Practitioner or specialist for other more suitable treatment (e.g., remdesivir):

1. Submit the claim using the **Paxlovid™ Ineligibility/Referral Assessment Fee - Pharmacist Prescriber** DIN (00951376) with an \$25.00 fee in the acquisition cost (AC) field.
 2. Submit the IRAF-P claim for adjudication to DPEBB as **a single transaction**.
 3. Ensure billing occurs on a real-time basis and use the Billing Codes and Claim Limitations listed in Table 1.
- The DPEBB pays 100% of the \$25.00 fee to the pharmacy.
 - Ensure the following fields are completed as follows:

• PATIENT IDENTIFIER	= nine-digit Health Services Number (HSN)
• DISPENSING DATE	= date of activity (e.g., June 3, 2024)
• RX NUMBER	= enter the sequential RX#
• HEALTH PROVIDER ORGANIZATION ID	= SKCP
• HEALTH PROVIDER ID	= Pharmacist ID number (e.g., D1234)
• PHARMACIST ORGANIZATION ID	= SK
• PHARMACIST ID	= Pharmacist ID number (e.g., D1234)
• DIN	= 00951376
• COMPOUNDING FEE (CF)	=\$0.00
• COMPOUND NAME	= blank
• QUANTITY (QTY)	= 1
• DAYS SUPPLY	= 1
• ACQUISITION COST (AC)	=\$25.00
• DISPENSING FEE (DF)	= \$0.00
• MARKUP	= 00/ 00/ 00
• TOTAL RX COST	= \$25.00
• PATIENT PAID	= \$0.00
• ADJUDICATION FLAG	= Y

APPENDIX III: Paxlovid™ Claim Submission Procedure

1. Submit the drug claim using the Paxlovid™ DIN (02524031) or Paxlovid Renal Pack™ (DIN 02527804).
 2. The Paxlovid™ drug claim must be **submitted for adjudication** to DPEBB as **a single transaction**.
 3. Ensure the Paxlovid™ prescription claim is recorded onto the patient's Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP) profile, including reviewing and resolving failed transaction reports as soon as possible.
 4. The drug claim for Paxlovid™ DIN (02524031) or Paxlovid Renal Pack™ (DIN 02527804) must be completed **prior to submission** of Level II "Other Diseases" Prescriptive Authority Fee: Covid-19 (Paxlovid™) (ODF-P)
- The DPEBB pays 100% of the drug cost for patients who meet Exception Drug Status criteria.
 - Ensure the following fields are completed as follows:

• PATIENT IDENTIFIER	= nine-digit Health Services Number (HSN)
• DISPENSING DATE	= date of activity (e.g., June 3, 2024)
• RX NUMBER	= enter the sequential RX#
• HEALTH PROVIDER ORGANIZATION ID	= SK or (SKCP -for Pharmacist Prescribing)
• HEALTH PROVIDER ID	= Physician/Nurse Practitioner (SPR ID #) or (Pharmacist ID number (e.g., D1234)
• PHARMACIST ORGANIZATION ID	= SK
• PHARMACIST ID	= Pharmacist ID number (e.g., D1234)
• DIN	= 02524031 (Paxlovid) or 02527804 (Renal Pack)
• COMPOUNDING FEE (CF)	= \$0.00
• COMPOUND NAME	= blank
• QUANTITY (QTY)	= 5 (Submit the quantity per card)
• DAYS SUPPLY	= 5
• ACQUISITION COST (AC)	= enter actual acquisition cost for 1 day (1 card) of treatment
• DISPENSING FEE (DF)	= enter usual and customary fee
• MARKUP	= tiered as per Pharmacy Proprietor Agreement
• TOTAL RX COST	= enter total cost
• PATIENT PAID	= as appropriate (\$0.00 if meets EDS criteria)
• ADJUDICATION FLAG	= Y

APPENDIX IV:
Level II “Other Diseases” Prescriptive Authority Fee: Covid-19 (Paxlovid™) (ODF-P)

1. After a Paxlovid™ drug claim has been submitted, submit the **Level II “Other Diseases” Prescriptive Authority Fee: Covid-19 (Paxlovid™) (ODF-P)** claim, DIN (00951375) with a \$25.00 fee in the acquisition cost (AC) field.
 2. The ODF-P claim must be **submitted for adjudication** to DPEBB as **a single transaction**.
 3. Billing shall occur on a real-time basis and use the Billing Codes and Claim Limitations listed in Table 1.
 4. Billing for the ODF-P must be submitted for adjudication on the same date as the Paxlovid™ drug claim.
- The DPEBB pays 100% of the \$25.00 fee to the pharmacy.
 - Ensure the following fields are completed as follows:

• PATIENT IDENTIFIER	= nine-digit Health Services Number (HSN)
• DISPENSING DATE	= date of activity (e.g., June 3, 2024)
• RX NUMBER	= enter the sequential RX#
• HEALTH PROVIDER ORGANIZATION ID	= SKCP
• HEALTH PROVIDER ID	= Pharmacist ID number (e.g., D1234)
• PHARMACIST ORGANIZATION ID	= SK
• PHARMACIST ID	= Pharmacist ID number (e.g., D1234)
• DIN	= 00951375
• COMPOUNDING FEE (CF)	= \$0.00
• COMPOUND NAME	= blank
• QUANTITY (QTY)	= 1
• DAYS SUPPLY	= 1
• ACQUISITION COST (AC)	= \$25.00
• DISPENSING FEE (DF)	= \$0.00
• MARKUP	= 00/ 00/ 00
• TOTAL RX COST	= \$25.00
• PATIENT PAID	= \$0.00
• ADJUDICATION FLAG	= Y