Nirmatrelvir/ Ritonavir
(Paxlovid™)

What Prescribers and Pharmacists Need to Know

Why is nirmatrelvir/ritonavir used to treat COVID-19?
COVID-19 has an initial phase of viral replication and a significant inflammatory response in moderate illness. This inflammation can lead to poor outcomes, including hospitalization, invasive ventilation, and death. However, treatments that target SARS-CoV-2 replication, if administered before the inflammatory phase of COVID-19, can improve outcomes.

Nirmatrelvir works by binding to the SARS-CoV-2 3CL protease, which ultimately causes viral replication to stop. Ritonavir is a potent CYP3A4 inhibitor. It is not active against SARS-CoV-2 but is administered as a “boosting agent” to slow the metabolism of nirmatrelvir, thus increasing concentrations of nirmatrelvir.

What is the benefit of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir for COVID-19?
The EPIC-HR study\(^2\) has shown a benefit from treatment of adult outpatients with laboratory-proven SARS-CoV-2 infection who were not on supplemental oxygen and were within 5 days of symptom onset. The study suggests that nirmatrelvir/ritonavir may reduce the risk of hospitalization in these patients by 88%.

The initial research on nirmatrelvir/ritonavir was done in unvaccinated patients and prior to circulation of the Omicron variant. In recent real-world studies, timely use of Paxlovid™ reduced hospitalization, all-cause mortality, and visits to the emergency department in people who have moderate to severe weakened immune systems or who are older.\(^3\),\(^4\)

Who should be considered for nirmatrelvir/ritonavir?
Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir should be considered for patients at higher risk of severe COVID-19 (confirmed positive by PCR or rapid test), and who are within 5 days of symptom onset.

PCR = polymerase chain reaction

Programs may also prioritize equity-deserving populations (e.g., racialized, living with a disability) and those living in rural communities.

Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir is recommended for people who are pregnant (if indicated) and can be offered to patients who are breastfeeding.\(^5\)

Refer to your jurisdiction for eligibility criteria. Generally, patients who are good candidates are those who:
- Are older
- Have a weakened immune system
- Have serious health conditions
- Live in long-term care
- Are unvaccinated or under-vaccinated

\(^1\) Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir is a highly effective outpatient therapy based on available data, but drug interactions must be managed (see Appendix). In a 2022 study, over 70% of 637 outpatients had at least 1 clinically significant drug-to-drug interaction (DDI) requiring mitigation.

\(^2\) EPIC-HR study

\(^3\) In recent real-world studies

\(^4\) Timely use of Paxlovid reduced hospitalization, all-cause mortality, and visits to the emergency department in people who have moderate to severe weakened immune systems or who are older.

\(^5\) Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir is recommended for people who are pregnant (if indicated) and can be offered to patients who are breastfeeding.
How do I dose nirmatrelvir/ritonavir for treatment of COVID-19?

1. Paxlovid™ consists of 2 drugs packaged together:
   - Nirmatrelvir (pink) 150 mg tablet
   - Ritonavir (white) 100 mg tablet

2. Each carton contains 5 blister cards. One blister card is used each day. The full course of treatment is 5 days.

3. Take 2 pink tablets of nirmatrelvir and 1 white tablet of ritonavir (3 tablets total) together at the same time, once in the morning and once in the evening for 5 days (i.e., 6 tablets per day).
   - May be taken with or without food.
   - May be split or crushed and mixed with common food:
     - For guidance, see “Crushing Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir”.

Special Dosing Considerations:
- eGFR ≤30 mL/min:
  - Nirmatrelvir 150 mg and ritonavir 100 mg taken together orally BID x 5 days.

- eGFR <30 mL/min:
  - Day 1: Nirmatrelvir 300 mg and ritonavir 100 mg
  - Day 2 to 5: Nirmatrelvir 150 mg and ritonavir 100 mg once daily.

- Dialysis: Dose for eGFR <30 mL/min; give after dialysis.

- If dialysis and weight <40 kg:
  - Nirmatrelvir 150 mg and ritonavir 100 mg q48h x 3 doses; give after dialysis.

Severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class C):
Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir is not recommended.

What side effects should I be aware of?
Common side effects of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir are generally mild and can include dysgeusia (taste disturbance), diarrhea, hypertension, myalgia, vomiting and headache.

Paxlovid™ product monograph

What drug interactions should I consider before prescribing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir?

- Ritonavir is a potent inhibitor of CYP3A4 isoenzyme and various drug transporters (e.g., P-glycoprotein).
  - Onset of ritonavir inhibition is rapid and takes a few days to dissipate after completion of therapy.

- Ritonavir and nirmatrelvir are both CYP3A4 substrates.

- Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir is contraindicated in patients taking drugs that are:
  - Highly metabolized by CYP3A4 where elevated concentrations can be life-threatening.
  - Potent CYP3A4 inducers which may reduce the effectiveness of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir and contribute to the development of drug resistance.

What if my patient is taking a drug that interacts with nirmatrelvir/ritonavir?

- If the patient is taking or has taken a CYP3A4 enzyme inducer in the last 14 days (e.g., certain anticonvulsants, antineoplastics, a rifamycin, St. John’s wort): Do NOT prescribe nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

- If the patient takes an interacting drug with a long plasma half-life and narrow therapeutic window (e.g., certain antiarrhythmics, antipsychotics, antineoplastics), the interacting drug will persist in the body after the last dose and may still interact with nirmatrelvir/ritonavir: Do NOT prescribe nirmatrelvir/ritonavir even if the interacting drug can be held.

- If the patient takes an interacting drug that can be held, hold the drug starting the first day of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir therapy, and resume 2 days after the last dose of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir treatment.

A specialist prescriber or pharmacist may be able to help adjust the dose or dosing interval, replace the drug with an alternative agent, manage side effects, and guide therapeutic drug monitoring.

What if my patient is taking therapy for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)?

Patients taking ritonavir or cobicistat for HIV therapy should continue their complete antiretroviral regimen at usual dosing while taking nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir has many drug interactions. See page 3 ➔
**Nirmatrelvir/Ritonavir (Paxlovid™) Drug Interactions:**

This is not an exhaustive list. Consultation with a pharmacist who can obtain a complete medication, recreational, and natural health product history from the patient is recommended prior to prescribing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

In certain instances, extended duration therapy (≥10 days) of Paxlovid™ may be considered. With more prolonged treatment, drug interaction severity and/or management strategies may be different. Prescribers who intend to use Paxlovid™ beyond the standard 5-day duration are encouraged to refer to the Liverpool COVID-19 Interaction Checker (see green button below) and select the “Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (extended administration; 10 days or longer)” option for specific drug interaction guidance.

### Symbol Key
- **◆** Contraindicated
- **◇** Contraindicated (use within past 14 days)
- **●** Do not coadminister
- **∇** Caution
- **☑** Drug interaction not likely to be clinically relevant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>◆</td>
<td>Contraindicated</td>
<td>Do not use nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td>Stopping the drug will not mitigate the interaction (e.g., prolonged half-life, narrow therapeutic index, prolonged enzyme-inducing effects which may decrease effectiveness of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir). Do not coadminister due to risk of serious toxicity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◇</td>
<td>Contraindicated (use within past 14 days)</td>
<td>Use alternative COVID agent.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>●</td>
<td>Do not coadminister</td>
<td>Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td>Significant ↑ in drug concentrations expected. Do not coadminister due to risk of serious toxicity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>∇</td>
<td>Caution</td>
<td>Therapy modification required (see Appendix).</td>
<td>Significant ↑/↓ in drug concentrations expected, which may lead to serious toxicity or impaired efficacy. Only coadminister if the interacting drug can be safely held or dose-adjusted and closely monitored (see Appendix). Expert consultation may be useful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑</td>
<td>Drug interaction not likely to be clinically relevant</td>
<td>Continue with standard dosing.</td>
<td>Although mentioned in the monograph, clinically relevant interaction is not anticipated (e.g., minimal impact on certain metabolic pathways, wide therapeutic index, and short course of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Drug Interactions
- Abemaciclib (Verzenio)
- Alfuzosin (Xatral)
- Aliskiren (Rasilez)
- Alprazolam (Xanax)
- Amitodarone
- Amitriptyline
- Amiodopine (Norvasc)
- Apalutamide (Erleada)
- Apixaban (Eliquis)
- Aripiprazole (Abilify), oral
- Atorvastatin (Lipitor)
- Atovaquone
- Bosentan (Tracleer)
- Bosutinib (Bosulif)
- Brexpiprazole (Rexulti)
- Budesonide
- Buproprion
- Buspirone (Buspar)
- Carbamazepine (Tegretol)
- Cariprazine (Waylar)
- Centrivin (Zykadia)
- Cisapride
- Citotramph
- Clarithromycin
- Clomipramine
- Clozaepam
- Clopidogrel (Plavix)
- Clorazapate
- Clozapine (Clozaril)
- Cobimetinib (Cotellic)
- Colchicine in renal/hepatic impairment
- Cyclosporine (Neoral)
- Daabogetan
- Dabrafenib (Tafinlar)
- Darifenacin (Enablex)
- Dasatinib (Sprycel)
- Desipramine
- Dexamethasone, high dose
- Diazepam (Valium)
- Digoxin
- Diltiazem (Tiazac, Cardizem)
- Disopyramide (Rythmodan)
- Divalproex
- Dofetilide
- Dronabinol
- Dronedaron (Multaq)
- Edoxaban (Lixiana)
- Elagolix (Orilissa)
- Elexiptan (Relpax)
- Elnaxacar/tezacaftar/ ivaftar (Tikalith)
- Encorafenib (Braftovi)
- Enzalutamide
- Eplerenone (Inspra)
- Ergot alkaloids (e.g., dihydroergotamine, ergonovine)
- Ethynyl estradiol
- Everolimus (Certican)
- Felodipine
- Fentanyl (Duragesic)
- Finerenone (Kerendia)
- Flucainide
- Flumazenil (Addyn)
- Fluvetine
- Fluizepam
- Fluocarolase (Flourent, Flonase)
- Fluvoxamine
- Fosmatinib (Tavaslesse)
- Fusidic acid, topical
- Glecapan/Prinetasvir (Maviret)
- Hydrocodone
- Ibrutinib (Imbruvica)
- Impiramine
- Ixasunocone (Cresema)
- Itracarnazole
- Ivabradine (Lancora)
- Ivcacator (Kalycdeco)
- Ivosidenib (Tisboso)
- Ketconazole
- Lamotrigine
- Lomitapide (Juxtapid)
- Lorlatinib (Lorbrena)
- Lovastatin
- Lumacafor/ivafor (Oktam)
- Lurasidone (Latuda)
- Maproline
- Maraviroc
- Meperidene (Demeor)
- Methamphetamine
- Metoprolol
- Midazolam, oral
- Mitotane (Lysodren)
- Modafinill
- Naloxegol (Movantik)
- Naretinb (Neryx)
- Nefidine
- Nilotinib (Tasigna)
- Nitrazepam (Flonase)
- Nitrazepam (Flonase)
- Nortriptiline
- Oxyconone (Percocet, OxynEO)
- Paroxetine
- Phenoobarbital
- Phenytoin (Dilantin)
- Pimozide
- Prednisone
- Primidone
- Propafenone
- Quetiapine (Seroquel)
- Quinidine
- Quinine
- Raltegravir
- Ranolazine (Corzyma)
- Rifabutin
- Rifampin
- Rifapentine
- Rinciguat (Adempas)
- Risperidone (Risperdal), oral
- Risperidone, long-acting injection (Risperdal Consta)
- Rivaroxaban (Xarelto)
- Rosuvastatin (Crestor)
- Salmeterol (Symdeko)
- Salmeterol (Xantra)
- Salmeterol (Xantra)
- Salmeterol (Xantra)
- Saxagliptin (Onglyza)
- Sertraline
- Sildenafil for ED† (Revatio)
- Sildenafil for PAH† (Revatio)
- Silodosin (Rapaflo)
- Simvastatin
- Sirolimus (Rapamune)
- Sonidegib (Odomzo)
- St. John's wort (Hypericum perforatum)
- Tacrolimus (Prograf, Advagral, Envarsus)
- Tadalafil for ED† (Cialis)
- Tadalafil for PAH† (Adcirca)
- Tamsulosin (Flomax)
- Tepotinib (Topmeko)
- Tezadafor/ivafor (Symdeko)
- Theophylline
- Ticagrelor (Brilinta)
- Timiol
- Tofacitinib (Xeljanz)
- Tolvaptan (Jinar, Samsca)
- Tramadol
- Trazodone (Desyrel)
- Triamcinolone
- Triazolam (Halcion)
- Trimepramine
- Ubrogepant (Ubrelux)
- Upadacitinib (Rinvoq)
- Vardenafil (Levirita) for ED†
- Vardenafil (Levirita) for PAH†
- Venetoclax (Venclexta)
- Venlafaxine
- Verapamil
- Vinblasting
- Vincristine
- Vorapaxar (Zontivity)
- Voriconazole (Vend)
- Warfarin
- Ziprasidone (Zeldoi)
- Zolpidem (Sublimo, Ambien)
- Zopiclane (Imovane)

*ED = erectile dysfunction  †PAH = pulmonary arterial hypertension

This document is intended for use by experienced clinicians, including prescribers and pharmacists. The information is not intended to replace sound professional judgment in individual situations, and should be used in conjunction with other reliable sources of information. Clinicians should always consider the risk/benefit profile for their individual patient, discuss these risks with the patient or caregiver before initiating therapy, and closely monitor for treatment benefit and adverse effects.
Appendix: Nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid™) Drug Interactions

Guiding principles for managing drug interactions categorized as ● and ○.

There is limited drug interaction data for nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (which is a potent CYP3A4/P-glycoprotein inhibitor). Most potential interactions listed below are based on known/anticipated effects with ritonavir alone or with other protease inhibitors. In some instances, pharmacokinetic interaction data for other potent CYP3A4 inhibitors (e.g., clarithromycin, ketoconazole) are included in this table to help predict the potential extent of an interaction effect with nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

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General recommendation for ● ○ drugs:
Hold the interacting drug for one week (i.e., beginning on the first day of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir and resuming two days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir).

- Ritonavir inhibition is not immediately reversible.

If holding a drug for one week is not a safe option:
- Use an alternative COVID-19 agent for ● ○ drugs, or;
- Consider therapy modification for ○ drugs.

Caution: ⚠️
Some drugs may need to be held longer due to a greater sensitivity to ritonavir inhibition (e.g., calcineurin inhibitors). In many instances, replacing a drug is not feasible, and may introduce more risk of harm or error (e.g., patient takes both the held and new drug, forgets to restart original drug, etc.).

Recommendations in this appendix are based on Canadian product monographs, the Liverpool COVID-19 Drug Interactions Database (University of Liverpool, 2023), Lexi-Interact Online Database (Hudson OH, Wolters Kluwer, 2023), and additional references as noted.

Disclaimer

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We acknowledge the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table for their collaboration on the original document.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Abemaciclib (Verzenio)</td>
<td>Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Alternatively, for patients who have not previously had dose reduction for toxicity, consider a dose reduction to 50 mg once daily with close monitoring for toxicity.</td>
<td>Decisions to hold or dose-adjust should be made in conjunction with the patient’s oncologist. Cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitors are generally held for acute infection. Abemaciclib AUC increased over 3-fold when coadministered with clarithromycin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>○ Alfuzosin (Xatral)</td>
<td>Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Alternatively, may consider giving every other day in patients with heightened risk of urinary retention. Monitor for hypotension.</td>
<td>Alfuzosin AUC increased 3-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole 400 mg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Aliskiren (Rasilez)</td>
<td>Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td>Aliskiren AUC increased 5 to 6-fold when coadministered with itraconazole.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>● Alprazolam (Xanax)</td>
<td>Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Alternatively, reduce alprazolam dose by at least 50% and monitor for increased effects.</td>
<td>Alprazolam AUC increased 148% and half-life increased from 13 to 30 hours when coadministered with ritonavir 200 mg x 4 doses.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AUC = Area under the curve

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Updated: December 21, 2023

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## Appendix (Page 2)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Amlodipine</strong></td>
<td>Reduce amlodipine dose by 50% or take dose every other day. Restart usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Monitor blood pressure. May consider continuing with usual dosing in patients at low risk of bradycardia or hypotension.</td>
<td>Amlodipine AUC increased 2-fold when coadministered with indinavir/ritonavir or paritaprevir/ritonavir.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Apixaban**     | If possible, use alternative COVID-19 agent. If not possible, ensure stable renal function, then:  
A) If already on low dose (2.5 mg BID) apixaban, continue.  
B) If acute venous thromboembolism (VTE):  
   - Low risk of clot:  
     Hold apixaban. 12 hours after the last dose of apixaban, start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir and aspirin 81 mg daily. Finish aspirin 1 day after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Restart apixaban 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.  
   - High risk of clot:  
     Hold apixaban. 12 hours after the last dose of apixaban, start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir and therapeutic dosing of a subcutaneous low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) such as:  
     - Dalteparin: 200 units/kg daily or 100 units/kg every 12 hours if >90 kg;  
     - Enoxaparin: 1 mg/kg every 12 hours (preferred) or 1.5 mg/kg once every 24 hours;  
     - Tinzaparin: 175 anti-Xa units/kg once daily.  
     Finish LMWH 1 day after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Restart apixaban 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.  
C) If atrial fibrillation:  
   Decrease apixaban to 2.5 mg BID. Resume usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. | Canadian product monograph states that coadministration with ritonavir is contraindicated. However, US product monograph suggests to decrease 5 mg twice daily dose to 2.5 mg twice daily when combined with strong inhibitors of CYP3A4 and P-glycoprotein.  
https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2012/20202155s000lbl.pdf  
Observational data from the US found no increased risk of bleeding in those prescribed apixaban, rivaroxaban, and dabigatran with nirmatrelvir/ritonavir, even when recommended dosing adjustments were not followed.  
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9579540/ |
| **Aripiprazole** | Reduce aripiprazole oral dose by 50% and resume usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Monitor for confusion, restlessness, and sedation. | Aripiprazole AUC increased almost 2-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole.  
No clinically relevant interaction expected with long-acting injection. |
| **Atorvastatin** | Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Alternatively, reduce atorvastatin to the equivalent of 10 mg daily by alternative day dosing, cutting the tablet, or obtaining a new prescription. Resume usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. | Atorvastatin AUC increased almost 6-fold when coadministered with lopinavir/ritonavir 400/100 mg twice daily. |
| **Bosutinib**    | Hold bosutinib and start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir 24 hours after the last bosutinib dose. Restart bosutinib 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. | Decisions to hold or dose-adjust should be made in conjunction with the patient’s oncologist.  
Bosutinib AUC increased almost 9-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole. |

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**See Paxlovid for a Patient on a DOAC for more details.**

https://uwaterloo.ca/pharmacy/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/paxlovid_for_a_patient_on_a_doac_0.pdf
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brexpiprazole (Rexulti)</td>
<td>Reduce brexpiprazole dose by 50% and resume usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Monitor for confusion, restlessness, sedation.</td>
<td>Brexpiprazole AUC increased 97% when coadministered with ketoconazole.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buspirone (Buspar)</td>
<td>Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Alternatively, reduce buspirone dose to 2.5 mg daily if the usual dose is 20 to 30 mg/day.</td>
<td>Buspirone AUC increased 19-fold when coadministered with itraconazole 200 mg/day for 4 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceritinib (Zykadia)</td>
<td>Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Alternatively, consider reducing ceritinib dose by 33% and monitor for toxicity.</td>
<td>Canadian product monograph recommends to avoid concomitant use. However, US product monograph suggests reducing dose by 33%, rounded to nearest 150 mg dosage strength. Ceritinib AUC increased 3-fold when single dose coadministered with ketoconazole.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cisapride</td>
<td>Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td>Potential for serious and/or life-threatening adverse effects, including cardiac arrhythmias.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clonazepam</td>
<td>Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. If an anxiolytic is needed, use lorazepam, oxazepam, or temazepam at usual doses.</td>
<td>Due to prolonged benzodiazepine half-life, coadministration is not recommended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clopidogrel (Plavix)</td>
<td>Acute coronary syndrome (ACS)/percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI):</td>
<td>Coadministration will decrease the antiplatelet effect of clopidogrel. Clopidogrel active metabolite AUC decreased by 51 to 69% when coadministered with ritonavir.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If &lt;1 month since ACS: Use alternative COVID-19 agent.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• If &lt;3 months since ACS or &lt;1 month since PCI (no ACS):</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consider switching clopidogrel to prasugrel (if age &lt;75, weight &gt;60 kg, and no history of stroke/TIA) and resume clopidogrel 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If &gt;3 months since ACS or &gt;1 month since PCI (no ACS):</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Continue clopidogrel with acetylsalicylic acid (ASA) during nirmatrelvir/ritonavir therapy. If not taking ASA, consider switching to prasugrel (if age &lt;75, weight &gt;60 kg, and no history of stroke/TIA) and resume clopidogrel 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clorazepate</td>
<td>Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. If an anxiolytic is needed, use lorazepam, oxazepam, or temazepam at usual doses.</td>
<td>Due to prolonged benzodiazepine half-life, coadministration is not recommended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobimetinib (Cotellic)</td>
<td>Hold cobimetinib and start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir 24 hours after the last cobimetinib dose. Restart cobimetinib 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td>Decisions to hold or dose-adjust should be made in conjunction with the patient’s oncologist. Cobimetinib AUC increased almost 7-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colchicine in renal/hepatic impairment</td>
<td>Next page</td>
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| **Colchicine in renal/hepatic impairment** | Coadministration is contraindicated in patients with renal and/or hepatic impairment. In patients with normal renal/hepatic function, colchicine may be administered at a lowered dose if practical:  
- **Treatment of gout flares:** 0.6 mg x 1 dose, then 0.3 mg (½ tablet) 1 hour later. Repeat dose no earlier than 3 days.  
- **Prevention of gout flares:** 
  a) If on 0.6 mg twice daily: decrease to 0.3 mg once daily;  
  b) If on 0.3 mg twice daily: decrease to 0.3 mg once every 2 days.  
- **Treatment of Familial Mediterranean fever:** Maximum 0.6 mg (0.3 mg twice daily). In all cases, resume usual colchicine dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. | Drug interaction could lead to potentially life-threatening/fatal adverse events. |
| **Cyclosporine (Neoral)** | Decision to start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir should be done in conjunction with the patient’s transplant provider. Reduce cyclosporine total daily dose by 80% and start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir 12 hours after the last cyclosporine dose. Continue at reduced dose throughout nirmatrelvir/ritonavir therapy. Resuming transplant immunotherapy after the last dose of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir should be guided by therapeutic drug monitoring and in conjunction with the patient’s transplant provider. | Check cyclosporine concentrations 2 days after the last dose of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.  
- If subtherapeutic/therapeutic: Resume at 100% of baseline dose.  
- If supratherapeutic: Continue at 20% of baseline dose for 2 days, then 100% of baseline dose thereafter. Repeat cyclosporine at weekly intervals as needed.  
https://doi.org/10.2215/cjn.0000000000000186 |
| **Dabigatran** | If possible, use alternative COVID-19 agent. If not possible, then:  
A) If already on low dose (110 mg BID) dabigatran, continue.  
B) If acute venous thromboembolism (VTE):  
- **Low risk of clot:** Hold dabigatran. 12 hours after the last dose of dabigatran, start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir **and** aspirin 81 mg daily. Finish aspirin 1 day after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Restart dabigatran 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.  
- **High risk of clot:** Hold dabigatran. 12 hours after the last dose of dabigatran, start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir **and** therapeutic dosing of a subcutaneous low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) such as:  
  a) **Dalteparin:** 200 units/kg daily **or** 100 units/kg every 12 hours if >90 kg;  
  b) **Enoxaparin:** 1 mg/kg every 12 hours (preferred) **or** 1.5 mg/kg once every 24 hours;  
  c) **Tinzaparin:** 175 anti-Xa units/kg once daily. Finish LMWH 1 day after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Restart dabigatran 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.  
C) If atrial fibrillation: Decrease dabigatran to 110 mg BID (if eGFR >60 mL/minute) **or** decrease to 75 mg BID (if eGFR 30 to 50 mL/minute). Resume usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. | Dabigatran AUC increased almost 2-fold when coadministered with nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Observational data from the US found no increased risk of bleeding in those prescribed apixaban, rivaroxaban, and dabigatran with nirmatrelvir/ritonavir, even when recommended dosing adjustments were not followed.  
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9579540/ |

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## Appendix (Page 5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darifenacin (Enablex)</td>
<td>Reduce dose to 7.5 mg darifenacin and resume usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td>Darifenacin AUC increased 5-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dasatinib (Sprycel)</td>
<td><strong>Chronic phase chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML):</strong> Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Alternatively, consider reducing dasatinib dose to 20 to 40 mg and monitor for toxicity. <strong>Accelerated or blast phase CML:</strong> Do not coadminister; use alternate COVID-19 therapy.</td>
<td>Decisions to hold or dose-adjust dasatinib should be made in conjunction with the patient’s oncologist. Dasatinib AUC increased 5-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dexamethasone, high dose</td>
<td><strong>High dose (≥20 mg daily):</strong> Reduce dexamethasone dose by 50% and resume usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. <strong>Low dose (&lt;20 mg daily):</strong> Continue with usual dose during nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td>Dexamethasone AUC increased almost 3-fold when coadministered with voriconazole. Li M, Zhu L, Chen L et al. Assessment of drug-drug interactions between voriconazole and glucocorticoids. J Chemother. 2018;30(5):296-303. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/1120009x.2018.1506693">https://doi.org/10.1080/1120009x.2018.1506693</a> Potential for risk of dexamethasone toxicity with high doses (≥20 mg daily). Clinically significant interaction is not expected with dexamethasone at low doses, including when used for COVID-19 treatment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diazepam (Valium)</td>
<td>Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. If an anxiolytic is needed, use lorazepam, oxazepam, or temazepam at usual doses.</td>
<td>Due to prolonged benzodiazepine half-life, coadministration is not recommended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digoxin</td>
<td>Reduce digoxin dose by 50% OR hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diltiazem (Tiazac, Cardizem)</td>
<td>Reduce diltiazem dose by 50% or take dose every other day. Restart usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Monitor heart rate and blood pressure. May consider continuing with usual dosing in patients at low risk of bradycardia or hypotension.</td>
<td>Concentrations of calcium channel blockers are expected to increase when coadministered with nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disopyramide (Rythmodan)</td>
<td>Hold disopyramide and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td>Disopyramide is partially (25%) metabolized by CYP3A4, with 50% eliminated unchanged in the urine. Coadministration may lead to increased disopyramide levels.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dofetilide</td>
<td>If possible, use alternative COVID-19 agent. Alternatively, hold dofetilide and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td>Dofetilide is metabolized to a small extent through CYP3A4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edoxaban (Lixiana)</td>
<td>Next page</td>
<td>Next page</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Appendix (Page 6)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Edoxaban** *(Lixiana)* | If possible, use alternative COVID-19 agent. If not possible, ensure stable renal function, then:  
A) If already on low dose (30 mg once daily) edoxaban, continue.  
B) If acute venous thromboembolism (VTE):  
  **Low risk of clot:**  
  Hold edoxaban, 24 hours after the last dose of edoxaban, start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir AND aspirin 81 mg daily. Finish aspirin 1 day after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Restart edoxaban 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.  
  **High risk of clot:**  
  Hold edoxaban, 24 hours after the last dose of edoxaban, start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir AND therapeutic dosing of a subcutaneous low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) such as:  
  - Dalteparin: 200 units/kg daily OR 100 units/kg every 12 hours if >90 kg;  
  - Enoxaparin: 1 mg/kg every 12 hours *(preferred)* OR 1.5 mg/kg once every 24 hours;  
  - Tinzaparin: 175 anti-Xa units/kg once daily.  
  Finish LMWH 1 day after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Restart edoxaban 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.  
C) If atrial fibrillation:  
  Decrease edoxaban to 30 mg daily. Resume usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. | No drug interaction data available with protease inhibitors but up to a 2-fold increase in exposure is anticipated.  
Canadian product monograph recommends caution when using with ritonavir, 30 mg daily dose is recommended with P-glycoprotein inhibitors.  
| **Elagolix** *(Orilissa)* | Potential for increased elagolix concentrations and possibly decreased nirmatrelvir concentrations. Continue with usual elagolix dose during nirmatrelvir/ritonavir therapy and monitor for elagolix toxicity. | Potential for serious adverse effects, including suicidal ideation and elevation of hepatic transaminases.  
Elagolix AUC increased over 2-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole 400 mg daily. |
| **Elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor** *(Trikafta)* | **Reduce dose as follows:**  
**Day 1:**  
Start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Take elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor 200/100/150 mg (2 orange tablets) in the morning.  
**Day 2 to 4:**  
No elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor.  
**Day 5:**  
Elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor 200/100/150 mg (2 orange tablets) in the morning.  
**Day 6 to 8:**  
No elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor.  
**Day 9:**  
Restart standard elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor dose.  
For patients where dose has previously been reduced for toxicity, consider alternative COVID-19 therapy. | Dosing recommendations based on a pharmacokinetic modelling study predicting a 9-fold increase in ivacaftor AUC, a 3-fold increase in tezacaftor AUC and a 2-fold increase in elexacaftor AUC following 5 days of coadministration with ritonavir.  
Canadian product monograph recommends reducing the elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor dose to 200/100/150 mg twice weekly when coadministered with strong CYP3A4 inhibitors.  
| **Encorafenib** *(Braftovi)* | Next page | Next page |

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AUC = Area under the curve
### Drug Recommendation Comments

**Appendix (Page 7)**

**Drug** | **Recommendation** | **Comments**
--- | --- | ---

- **Encorafenib** *(Braftovi)*  
  Decision to initiate nirmatrelvir/ritonavir should be done in conjunction with the patient’s transplant provider.
  - Hold everolimus and start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir 12 hours after last everolimus dose.
  - Resuming transplant immunotherapy after the last dose of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir should be guided by therapeutic drug monitoring and in conjunction with the patient’s transplant provider.
  - Reduce felodipine dose by 50% or take dose every other day.
  - Restart usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

- **Eplerenone** *(Inspra)*  
  Co-administration with eplerenone is contraindicated due to potential for hyperkalemia.
  - Hold 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

- **Ergot alkaloids (e.g., dihydroergotamine, ergonovine)**  
  Potential for serious and/or life threatening adverse effects, including acute ergot toxicity.
  - Hold 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

- **Erythromycin**  
  Use with caution and monitor for QTc prolongation in those at higher risk or consider using alternative antibiotic such as azithromycin.

- **Everolimus** *(Certican)*  
  Decision to initiate nirmatrelvir/ritonavir should be done in conjunction with the patient’s transplant provider.
  - Hold everolimus and start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir 12 hours after last everolimus dose.
  - Resuming transplant immunotherapy after the last dose of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir should be guided by therapeutic drug monitoring and in conjunction with the patient’s transplant provider.
  - Check everolimus concentrations 2 days after the last dose of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.
  - Encorafenib AUC increased 3-fold when coadministered with posaconazole.

- **Felodipine**  
  Concentrations of calcium channel blockers are expected to increase when coadministered with nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.
  - Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

- **Finerenone** *(Kerendia)*  
  Combination is contraindicated due to potential for serious adverse reactions including hyperkalemia, hypotension, and hyponatremia.
  - Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

- **Fibanserin** *(Addyi)*  
  Fibanserin AUC increased AUC 4.5-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole.
  - Ideally, hold fibanserin and start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir 2 days after the last dose of fibanserin. If this is not possible, hold fibanserin as soon as possible and monitor for hypotension and syncope. Restart fibanserin 2 weeks after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

- **Flurazepam**  
  Due to prolonged benzodiazepine half-life, coadministration is not recommended.
  - Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

- **Fostamatinib** *(Tavalisse)*  
  Fostamatinib active metabolite AUC increased 102% when coadministered with ketoconazole.
  - Monitor for toxicity including diarrhea, hypertension, hepatotoxicity, and neutropenia. If significant toxicity occurs, consider interruption of fostamatinib with reintroduction 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

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\[ \text{AUC} = \text{Area under the curve} \]
## Appendix (Page 8)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Glecaprevir/Pibrentasvir</td>
<td>If possible, use alternative COVID-19 agent or consult a Hepatitis C (HCV) specialist. If under specialist guidance, may coadminister with caution and monitor for liver toxicity.</td>
<td>Glecaprevir exposure is increased over 4-fold with ritonavir and is associated with increased risk of alanine aminotransferase (ALT) elevation.  In patients who are planning to start Hepatitis C (HCV) treatment, glecaprevir/pibrentasvir treatment should be deferred.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrocodone</td>
<td>Reduce dose by about 50% or switch to equivalent dose of hydromorphone:</td>
<td>Hydrocodone is metabolized to active metabolites: hydromorphone and norhydrocodone.  Hydrocodone AUC increased by 90% when coadministered with ritonavir/ombitasvir/paritaprevir combination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ibrutinib</td>
<td>Consider alternate COVID-19 therapy. Alternatively, consider holding ibrutinib and starting nirmatrelvir/ritonavir 12 hours after the last ibrutinib dose. Restart ibrutinib 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td>Decisions to hold or dose-adjust ibrutinib should be made in conjunction with the patient’s oncologist. <strong>It may be dangerous to interrupt therapy in patients with high volume chronic lymphocytic leukemia or mantle cell lymphoma due to disease flare and/or cytokine release.</strong>  Ibrutinib AUC increased 26-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isavuconazole</td>
<td>Monitoring is advised based on potential risk of increased side effects of isavuconazole.</td>
<td>Contraindicated with ketoconazole.  For the strong CYP3A4 inhibitor lopinavir/ritonavir, a 2-fold increase (96% incr AUC) in isavuconazole exposure was observed. For other strong CYP3A4 inhibitors, such as clarithromycin, indinavir, and saquinavir, a less pronounced effect can be expected based on their relative potency. No dose adjustment of isavuconazole is necessary when co-administered with these strong CYP3A4/5 inhibitors. However, caution is advised as adverse drug reactions may increase.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Ivacaftor                     | **Reduce dose as follows:**  
Day 1: Start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Take ivacaftor 150 mg in the morning only.  
Day 2 to 4: No ivacaftor.  
Day 5: Take ivacaftor 150 mg in the morning only.  
Day 6 to 8: No ivacaftor.  
Day 9: Restart standard ivacaftor dose.  
| Lomitapide                    | Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.              | Lomitapide AUC increased 27-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole.  Lomitapide AUC increased 27-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole. |
| Lovastatin                    | Stop lovastatin at least 12 hours before starting nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Restart 5 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. | Contraindicated due to potential for severe toxicity including rhabdomyolysis and elevated liver function tests.  Lovastatin Stop lovastatin at least 12 hours before starting nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Restart 5 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. |
### Drug Recommendation Comments

**Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.**

- **Meperidine (Demerol)**
  - Do not coadminister. Switch meperidine to an equivalent dose of hydromorphone:
    - Multiply meperidine dose by 0.02 to get equivalent hydromorphone dose.
    - Consider further reducing hydromorphone dose by 25 to 50% to account for cross tolerance.
  - Monitor for signs of opioid toxicity. Resume usual meperidine dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.
  - Normeperidine AUC increased 50% when coadministered with ritonavir.
  - Higher levels of normeperidine can cause central nervous system excitation and seizures.

- **Midazolam, oral**
  - Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.
  - Combination is contraindicated. Coadministration may result in large increases in oral midazolam concentrations with the potential for serious events such as prolonged or increased sedation or respiratory depression.

- **Modafinil**
  - No dose adjustment required. Monitor for anxiety and agitation.
  - Coadministration could potentially increase modafinil exposure due to CYP3A4 inhibition. Modafinil is a moderate inducer of CYP3A4, but a clinically significant effect on nirmetrelvir/ritonavir exposure is unlikely.

- **Naloxegol (Movantik)**
  - Coadministration is contraindicated due to the potential for adverse effects including abdominal pain, diarrhea, nausea, flatulence, vomiting, headache, and hyperhidrosis and withdrawal symptoms. Hold naloxegol and restart at least 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.
  - Naloxegol AUC increased almost 13-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole.

- **Neratinib (Nerlynx)**
  - Hold and start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir 24 hours after the last neratinib dose. Restart neratinib 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.
  - Decisions to hold or dose-adjust should be made in conjunction with the patient’s oncologist.
  - Neratinib AUC increased almost 5-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole.

- **Nifedipine**
  - Reduce nifedipine dose by 50% or take dose every other day. Restart usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.
  - Monitor blood pressure. May consider continuing with usual dosing in patients at low risk of bradycardia or hypotension.
  - Concentrations of calcium channel blockers are expected to increase when coadministered with nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

- **Nilotinib (Tasigna)**
  - Chronic phase chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML): Hold nilotinib if possible, restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Alternatively, consider dose reduction to 400 mg PO daily and monitor for toxicity.
  - Accelerated or blast phase CML: Do not coadminister. Consider an alternate COVID-19 therapy.
  - Decisions to hold or dose-adjust nilotinib should be made in conjunction with the patient’s oncologist.
  - Canadian monograph recommends holding if using CYP3A4 inhibitors, or monitoring for QTc if treatment interruption is not possible. A 50% dose reduction is recommended based on expected effect on nilotinib exposures.
  - Nilotinib AUC increased 3-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole.

- **Nirazepam (Mogadon)**
  - Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.
  - If an anxiolytic is needed, use lorazepam, oxazepam, or temazepam at usual doses.
  - Due to prolonged benzodiazepine half-life, coadministration is not recommended.

- **Oxycodone (Percocet, OxyNEO)**
  - Next page

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AUC = Area under the curve
## Appendix (Page 10)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Oxycodone** | Reduce dose of oxycodone by 66% or switch to equivalent dose of hydromorphone:  
  - Multiply oxycodone dose by 0.3 to get equivalent hydromorphone dose.  
  - Consider further reducing hydromorphone dose by 25 to 50% to account for cross tolerance.  
  
  Monitor for signs of opioid toxicity. Resume usual oxycodone dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. | Oxycodone half-life increased 2-fold and AUC increased between 3 and 4-fold when coadministered with other potent 3A4 inhibitors (i.e., voriconazole). |
| **(Percocet,** |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| **OxyNEO)**   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| **Quetiapine**| Reduce to one-sixth of original dose and resume usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.                                                                                                         | Quetiapine AUC increased 5 to 8-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole.                                                                                                                                   |
| *(Seroquel)*  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| **Quinine**   | **For treatment of leg cramps:**  
  Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.  
  **For treatment of malaria:**  
  Use an alternative COVID-19 agent.                                                                                                           | Quinine AUC increased 4-fold and conversion to active metabolite was markedly inhibited when coadministered with ritonavir 200 mg twice daily.                                                     |
| **Rifabutin** | Reduce rifabutin to 150 mg once daily; return to 300 mg once daily 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.                                                                                                   | Canadian monograph recommends 150 mg three times a week, but the dose has been found to be too low and contributes to resistance. The Department of Health and Human Services Panel on Antiretroviral Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents recommends using rifabutin 150 mg daily when used with a ritonavir-boosted protease inhibitor.  
  Significant increases in exposures of rifabutin (>3-fold) and metabolite (>40-fold) observed when coadministered with lopinavir/ritonavir 400/100 mg twice daily. |
| **Risperidone**| Reduce risperidone dose by 25 to 50% and resume usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.                                                                                                       | Risperidone AUC increased up to 2-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole.  
  Avoid coadministration in patients stabilized on risperidone long-acting injection.                                                                                                                   |
| *(Risperdal), oral* |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| **Rivaroxaban**| **Next page**                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| *(Xarelto)*    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
### Appendix (Page 11)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rivaroxaban</strong> <em>(Xarelto)</em></td>
<td><strong>If possible, use alternative COVID-19 agent. If not possible, then:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rivaroxaban AUC and Cmax increased by 153% and 55%, respectively, when coadministered with ritonavir 600 mg twice daily in healthy volunteers.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>A) If acute venous thromboembolism (VTE):</strong></td>
<td><strong>High risk of clot includes:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Low risk of clot:</strong></td>
<td>- Clot within past 6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hold rivaroxaban. 24 hours after the last dose of rivaroxaban, start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir <em>AND</em> aspirin 81 mg daily. Finish aspirin 1 day after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Restart rivaroxaban 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td>- Clot at any time in past when anticoagulation interrupted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>High risk of clot:</strong></td>
<td>- Active cancer with clot at any point in cancer journey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hold rivaroxaban. 24 hours after the last dose of rivaroxaban, start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir <em>AND</em> therapeutic dosing of a subcutaneous low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) such as:</td>
<td>- Diagnosis of antiphospholipid antibody syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Dalteparin: 200 units/kg daily <em>OR</em> 100 units/kg every 12 hours if &gt;90 kg;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Enoxaparin: 1 mg/kg every 12 hours <em>(preferred) OR</em> 1.5 mg/kg once every 24 hours;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Tinzaparin: 175 anti-Xa units/kg once daily.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Finish LMWH 1 day after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Restart rivaroxaban 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>B) If atrial fibrillation:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hold rivaroxaban. 24 hours after the last dose of rivaroxaban, start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir <em>AND</em> edoxaban 30 mg daily. Finish edoxaban 1 day after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Restart rivaroxaban 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For patients currently receiving rivaroxaban 20 mg daily, if &lt;65 years old with CrCl &gt;50 mL/min:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It may be reasonable to decrease rivaroxaban to 10 mg daily. Resume normal rivaroxaban dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rosuvastatin</strong></td>
<td>Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td><strong>Rosuvastatin AUC increased 2-fold and Cmax increased almost 5-fold when coadministered with lopinavir/ritonavir 400/100 mg twice daily.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salmeterol</strong> <em>(Serevent, Advair)</em></td>
<td>Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td><strong>Potential for serious and/or life-threatening adverse effects, including cardiac arrhythmias (prolonged QTc).</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saxagliptin</strong> <em>(Onglyza)</em></td>
<td>Reduce saxagliptin to 2.5 mg once daily and resume usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td><strong>Saxagliptin AUC increased 145% when coadministered with ketoconazole.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sildenafil for erectile dysfunction</strong> <em>(Viagra)</em></td>
<td>Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td><strong>Sildenafil AUC increased 2 to 11-fold when coadministered with protease inhibitors.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alternatively, reduce dose to 25 mg once every 48 hours. Resume usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Note:**

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- **AUC** = Area under the curve
- **Cmax** = Maximum (or peak) serum concentration

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### References

1. B) If atrial fibrillation:
   - Hold rivaroxaban. 24 hours after the last dose of rivaroxaban, start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir *AND* edoxaban 30 mg daily. Finish edoxaban 1 day after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Restart rivaroxaban 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.
   - For patients currently receiving rivaroxaban 20 mg daily, if <65 years old with CrCl >50 mL/min:
     - It may be reasonable to decrease rivaroxaban to 10 mg daily. Resume normal rivaroxaban dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

2. A pharmacokinetic modelling study suggested that decreasing rivaroxaban to 10 mg daily during nirmatrelvir/ritonavir therapy maintained acceptable rivaroxaban exposures in the general population with no increased risk of major bleeding. However, the risk of major bleeding was increased in the geriatric population and those with impaired renal function.


3. Observational data from the US found no increased risk of bleeding in those prescribed apixaban, rivaroxaban, and dabigatran with nirmatrelvir/ritonavir, even when recommended dosing adjustments were not followed.


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**See Paxlovid for a Patient on a DOAC for more details.**

[https://uwaterloo.ca/pharmacy/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/paxlovid_for_a_patient_on_a_doac_0.pdf](https://uwaterloo.ca/pharmacy/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/paxlovid_for_a_patient_on_a_doac_0.pdf)
## Drug Recommendation Comments

**Silodosin (Rapaflo)**
- Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.
- **Comments:** Silodosin AUC increased over 3-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole.

**Simvastatin**
- Stop simvastatin at least 12 hours before starting nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Restart 5 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.
- **Comments:** Contraindicated due to potential for severe toxicity including rhabdomyolysis and elevated liver function tests.

**Sirolimus (Rapamune)**
- Decision to initiate nirmatrelvir/ritonavir should be done in conjunction with the patient’s transplant provider.
  - Hold sirolimus and start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir 24 to 48 hours after the last sirolimus dose.
  - Resuming transplant immunotherapy after the last dose of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir should be guided by therapeutic drug monitoring and in conjunction with the patient’s transplant provider.
- **Comments:** Check sirolimus concentration 2 days after the last dose of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.
  - If therapeutic/subtherapeutic: Resume sirolimus at 50% of baseline dose. Repeat level every 7 days and dose-adjust accordingly.
  - If supratherapeutic: Continue to hold sirolimus and repeat level in 5 to 7 days to assess resumption.

**Tacrolimus (Prograf, Advagraf, Envarsus)**
- Decision to initiate nirmatrelvir/ritonavir should be done in conjunction with the patient’s transplant provider.
  - Immediate release (Prograf, generics): Hold tacrolimus and start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir 12 hours after the last tacrolimus dose.
  - Extended (Advagraf) or prolonged (Envarsus) release: Hold the long acting tacrolimus and start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir 24 hours after the last tacrolimus dose.
  - Resuming transplant immunotherapy after the last dose of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir should be guided by therapeutic drug monitoring and in conjunction with the patient’s transplant provider.
- **Comments:** For all forms of tacrolimus: check tacrolimus concentrations 2 days after the last dose of nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.
  - If subtherapeutic: Resume tacrolimus at 75% of baseline dose for 3 days, then resume baseline dose (100% of original dose). Repeat level 1 week later.
  - If therapeutic: Resume tacrolimus at 50% of baseline dose for 3 days, then resume baseline dose (100% of original dose). Repeat level 1 week later.
  - If supratherapeutic: Resume tacrolimus at 33% of baseline dose for 3 days, then repeat level in 2 to 4 days to guide further dosing.

**Tadalafil for erectile dysfunction (Cialis)**
- Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.
  - Alternatively, reduce the dose to 10 mg once every 72 hours. Resume usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.
- **Comments:** Tadalafil AUC increased 124% when coadministered with ritonavir 200 mg twice daily.

**Tamsulosin (Flomax)**
- Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.
  - Alternatively, may consider using 0.4 mg daily or giving every other day in patients with heightened risk of urinary retention. Monitor for hypotension. Resume usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.
- **Comments:** Tamsulosin AUC increased almost 3-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole.

**Tezacaftor/ivacaftor (Symdeko)**
- **Next page**

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AUC = Area under the curve

Acute coronary syndrome (ACS)/percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI):

Ticagrelor AUC increased 36% when coadministered with a single dose of ritonavir 100 mg.

Dosing recommendations based on a pharmacokinetic modelling study predicting a 9-fold increase in ivacaftor AUC and a 3-fold increase in tezacaftor AUC following 5 days of coadministration with ritonavir.

Canadian product monograph recommends reducing tezacaftor/ivacaftor dose to 100/150 mg twice weekly when coadministered with strong CYP3A4 inhibitors.

Tezacaftor/ivacaftor (Symdeko) Ticagrelor (Brilinta)

If <1 month since ACS: Suggest alternative COVID-19 agent.

If <3 months since ACS or <1 month since PCI (no ACS): Switch to prasugrel (if age <75, weight >60 kg, and no history of stroke/TIA) during nirmatrelvir/ritonavir therapy.

If >3 months since ACS or >1 month since PCI (no ACS): Consider temporarily holding ticagrelor (i.e., no switching) during nirmatrelvir/ritonavir therapy and resuming after. If not taking acetylsalicylic acid (ASA), consider switching to prasugrel (if age <70, weight >60 kg, and no history of stroke/TIA) or half-dose of ticagrelor (45 mg twice daily).

Reduce dose as follows:

Day 1: Start nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Take tezacaftor/ivacaftor 100/150 mg (1 yellow tablet) in the morning.

Day 2 to 4: No tezacaftor/ivacaftor.

Day 5: Tezacaftor/ivacaftor 100/150 mg (1 yellow tablet) in the morning.

Day 6 to 8: No tezacaftor/ivacaftor.

Day 9: Restart standard tezacaftor/ivacaftor dose.

For patients where dose has previously been reduced for toxicity, consider alternative COVID-19 therapy.

The drug recommenations are based on the following studies:


Tofacitinib (Xeljanz) Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Alternatively, reduce tofacitinib dose by 50% or take dose every other day. Restart usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

It is recommended to hold tofacitinib in the case of serious infections.

Tofacitinib AUC increased 2-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole.

Tramadol Reduce tramadol dose by 50% and monitor for pain relief and opioid toxicity. Resume usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

Inhibition of CYP3A4 may increase tramadol concentrations. Inhibition of CYP2D6 can decrease conversion of tramadol to a more active metabolite, but this is not expected to be significant when coadministered with nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

Trazodone (Desyrel) Next page

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Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

If an anxiolytic is needed, use lorazepam, oxazepam, or temazepam at usual doses.

Combination is contraindicated. Coadministration may result in large increases in triazolam concentrations with the potential for serious events such as prolonged or increased sedation or respiratory depression.

Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. Vardenafil AUC increased 49-fold when coadministered with ritonavir 600 mg twice daily.

Reduce verapamil dose by 50% or take dose every other day. Restart usual dose 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

Monitor blood pressure. May consider continuing with usual dosing in patients at low risk of bradycardia or hypotension.

Concentrations of calcium channel blockers are expected to increase when coadministered with nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

Vinblastine may be held in the context of acute infection. Restart vinblastine at least 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

Alternatively, vinblastine may be coadministered with close monitoring for hematologic and neurotoxicity. Some providers may wish to empirically reduce vinblastine dose, especially in patients who have previously experienced or are at high risk for toxicity.

Decisions to hold or dose-adjust should be made in conjunction with the patient’s oncologist.

Vinblastine AUC increased almost 2-fold when coadministered with ritonavir. Increased risk of autonomic and peripheral neurotoxicity and neutropenia have been reported with coadministration of ritonavir and vinblastine.

Vincristine may be held in the context of acute infection. Restart vincristine 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

Alternatively, vincristine may be coadministered with close monitoring for hematologic and neurotoxicity. Some providers may wish to empirically reduce vincristine dose, especially in patients who have previously experienced or are at high risk for toxicity.

Decisions to hold or dose-adjust should be made in conjunction with the patient’s oncologist.

Increased rates of hematologic toxicity and neuropathy (including autonomic neuropathy) have been reported with coadministration of ritonavir and vincristine.

Voriconazole may be held in the context of acute infection. Restart voriconazole at least 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.

Alternatively, voriconazole may be coadministered with close monitoring for hematologic and neurotoxicity. Some providers may wish to empirically reduce voriconazole dose, especially in patients who have previously experienced or are at high risk for toxicity.

Decisions to hold or dose-adjust should be made in conjunction with the patient’s oncologist.

Voriconazole AUC increased 75% when coadministered with ketoconazole.

It is recommended to hold upadacitinib in the case of severe infections.

Upadacitinib AUC increased 75% when coadministered with ketoconazole.

Ubrogepant AUC increased 10-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole.

Combination is contraindicated. Ubrogepant AUC increased 10-fold when coadministered with ketoconazole.

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### Appendix (Page 15)

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<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Warfarin</strong></td>
<td>Monitor for signs of increased bleeding and bruising. Check international normalized ratio (INR) if clinically indicated.</td>
<td>Potential for increased warfarin concentrations when coadministered with nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ziprasidone (Zeldox)</strong></td>
<td>No dose adjustment required. Monitor for dizziness, extrapyramidal symptoms, and sedation.</td>
<td>Only one-third of ziprasidone dose is metabolized by CYP450. Ziprasidone AUC increased 35 to 40% when coadministered with ketoconazole.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Zolpidem (Sublinox, Ambien)</strong></td>
<td>Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. If coadministration required, reduce zolpidem dose by 50%.</td>
<td>Zolpidem AUC increased 70% when coadministered with ketoconazole.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Zopiclone (Imovane)</strong></td>
<td>Hold and restart 2 days after completing nirmatrelvir/ritonavir. If coadministration required, reduce zopiclone dose by 50%.</td>
<td>Potential for increased zopiclone exposures when coadministered with nirmatrelvir/ritonavir.</td>
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</tbody>
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