

Executive Officer Notice: Dispensing Publicly Funded Remdesivir (Veklury™) in Ontario Pharmacies

Effective November 17, 2023

This Executive Officer (EO) Notice sets out the terms and conditions for an eligible pharmacy's submission of claims for preparing and dispensing publicly funded remdesivir for eligible individuals. The document is a Ministry Policy that pharmacy operators must comply with under section 3.2 of the HNS Subscription Agreement for Pharmacy Operators.

Pharmacy eligibility

In order to be eligible to submit claims for dispensing services related to publicly funded remdesivir (Veklury™) for eligible individuals, pharmacies (hereinafter referred to as "pharmacy" or "pharmacies") must comply with all of the following requirements:

- Have a Health Network System (HNS) account and valid HNS Subscription Agreement with the ministry
- Be registered with the Ministry to order publicly funded remdesivir (pharmacies must email OPDPinfo@ontario.ca for confirmation)

Patient Eligibility

An eligible pharmacy may submit a claim for dispensing services related to publicly funded remdesivir in accordance with this EO Notice for an individual who meets the following criteria ("eligible individual")

- The individual has been prescribed (by physician or nurse practitioner) intravenous remdesivir treatment for COVID-19 infection; AND
- The individual will receive intravenous remdesivir treatment in the community, including in Long Term Care (LTC) homes or other congregate care settings, or from a Home and Community Care Support Services (HCCSS) provider; AND

- The prescriber and/or HCCSS organization has confirmed verbally¹ or in writing that:
 - the individual does not require hospitalization; AND
 - the individual cannot take Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir and ritonavir), e.g., due to a drug interaction or contraindication; AND
 - the individual has a positive COVID-19 test result (molecular or rapid antigen) and has had symptoms for fewer than 8 days at the time treatment is initiated (dose one).²

General Billing Information

- There is no cost to eligible individuals who receive dispensing services for publicly funded remdesivir from an eligible pharmacy.
- An eligible pharmacy may receive remdesivir vials free-of-charge through McKesson Canada Inc., subject to available supply. Pharmacies must be registered with the Ministry to be able to order (see Pharmacy Eligibility).
- Remdesivir is supplied as a 100mg/vial powder for solution for infusion.
- The PIN 09858244 must be included in the claim.
- For each valid claim submitted for dispensing services related to remdesivir, a pharmacy will receive up to \$31 as payment for the ingredient costs, preparation and dispensing of a prepared unit (i.e., one 100mL or 250mL intravenous infusion bag). This includes:
 - A fee of \$14.75 for dispensing and compounding services, AND
 - Ingredient costs up to a maximum of \$16.25 including 8% mark-up. Only the cost plus 8% mark-up for the quantity of sterile water for injection (i.e., 19mL per remdesivir vial) and sodium chloride 9mg/mL (0.9%) solution for injection (i.e., one 100mL or 250mL bag) used in the preparation of remdesivir intravenous infusion will be paid to a pharmacy.
- Note: Pharmacies that are dispensing remdesivir vials only (i.e., not preparing the intravenous infusion bag at the pharmacy for each day of treatment) should claim one single fee of \$14.75 for dispensing the total number of remdesivir vials required to complete the course of treatment as prescribed.

¹ If communicated verbally, then the pharmacy must document the communication in writing.

² Positive test results includes self-administered rapid antigen test results confirmed verbally by the patient.

Restrictions

- A **maximum of one claim per eligible individual per day** for preparation and dispensing services may be submitted by a pharmacy. A **maximum of up to three claims** per eligible individual may be claimed for preparation and dispensing services related to remdesivir treatment.
- Drug costs for unused or wasted portions of any ingredient are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Infusion sets, tubings, empty bags, syringes, adaptacaps, etc. as well as personal protective equipment (PPE) are not eligible for reimbursement and, therefore, should not be added to the ingredient costs for reimbursement.
- Dispensing/compounding remdesivir to an individual in a LTC home is a professional pharmacy service considered under the LTC home capitation funding model and must be provided by the LTC home's contracted primary pharmacy service provider. Pharmacies must submit claims for dispensing/compounding remdesivir with a zero-dollar fee similar to any other claim. In emergency situations, secondary pharmacy service providers (i.e., those that do not have a contract with a LTC home) may be reimbursed the applicable fee for dispensing/compounding remdesivir to LTC home residents, in accordance with this Notice.

Billing Procedures

Claims for preparation and dispensing of remdesivir can only be submitted electronically using the HNS. No manual paper claims will be accepted unless 3 intervention codes are required in order to process the claim.

Each claim must include the PIN 09858244 (do not use the DIN for remdesivir).

The process for submitting claims in the HNS is outlined in [Section 5](#) of the Manual and should include the following additional information:

For recipients with Ontario health number if ODB number is available

- Intervention code PS : Professional Care Services
- Valid Pharmacist ID
- PIN 09858244
- Professional Fee – Up to \$31 based on the total of the following:
 - Actual acquisition cost for sterile water for injection (19mL per remdesivir vial) and sodium chloride 9mg/mL (0.9%) solution for injection (100mL or 250mL) (equal to manufacturer's or wholesaler's invoice amount minus discounts);
AND

- 8% mark-up; AND
- \$14.75 dispensing and compounding fee

For recipients with an Ontario health number if ODB number is unknown

When submitting a claim for an eligible individual whose ODB number is unknown, provide the following information:

- Patient Gender: 'F' = female; 'M' = male
- Patient Date of Birth: Valid YYYYMMDD
- Patient's Ontario Health number
- Intervention codes:
 - PS : Professional Care Services
 - ML : Established eligibility coverage (i.e., 1 day of the Plan 'S' coverage)
- Carrier ID: 'S'
- Valid Pharmacist ID
- PIN 09858244
- Professional Fee – Up to \$31 based on the total of the following:
 - Actual acquisition cost for sterile water for injection (19mL per remdesivir vial) and sodium chloride 9mg/mL (0.9%) solution for injection (100mL or 250mL) (equal to manufacturer's or wholesaler's invoice amount minus discounts); AND
 - 8% mark-up; AND
 - \$14.75 dispensing and compounding fee

For recipients without an Ontario health number

When submitting a claim for an eligible individual who does not have an Ontario health number, provide the following information:

- First Name: Individual's first name
- Last Name: Individual's last name
- Patient Gender: 'F' = female; 'M' = male; 'U' = unknown
- Patient Date of Birth: Valid YYYYMMDD
- Proxy patient ID: 79999 999 93
- Intervention codes:
 - PS: Professional Care Services
 - PB: Name entered is consistent with ID provided
- Valid Pharmacist ID
- PIN 09858244
- Professional Fee – Up to \$31 based on the total of the following:
 - Actual acquisition cost for sterile water for injection (19mL per remdesivir vial) and sodium chloride 9mg/mL (0.9%) solution for injection (100mL or 250mL)

- (equal to manufacturer's or wholesaler's invoice amount minus discounts);
- AND
- 8% mark-up; AND
- \$14.75 dispensing and compounding fee

Documentation Requirements

Pharmacies and pharmacists shall keep records consistent with their obligations under applicable law, including the *Pharmacy Act, 1991* and the *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act*, and under any instructions or guidelines provided by the OCP or the ministry.

For purposes of post-payment verification, pharmacy records related to claims for dispensing services for publicly funded remdesivir must be maintained in a readily available format for the purpose of ministry inspection for a minimum of 10 years from the last recorded pharmacy service provided to the eligible individual, or until 10 years after the day on which the eligible individual reached or would have reached the age of 18 years, whichever is longer.

Overpayments due to inappropriate claim submissions are subject to recovery.

Pharmacies must keep a record of every course of publicly funded remdesivir dispensed to an eligible individual. In addition to standard documentation requirements for prescriptions, the formula of the preparation indicating the quantities and cost of sterile water for injection and sodium chloride 9mg/mL (0.9%) solution for injection (i.e., copy of the manufacturer's or wholesaler's invoice(s) which demonstrate the acquisition cost of the ingredients) must be maintained in a readily retrievable format for the purposes of post-payment verification.

Additional Information:

For Ministry COVID-19 Guidance: visit this [website](#)

For pharmacy billing questions: Call the ODB Pharmacy Help Desk at: 1-800-668-6641

For pharmacy COVID-19 related questions: Email the ministry OPDPInfoBox@ontario.ca

All other Health Care Providers and the Public may call ServiceOntario, Infoline at 1-866-532-3161 TTY 1-800-387-5559. In Toronto, TTY 416-327-4282.