

Executive Officer Notice: ODB Formulary Listing of Remdesivir (Veklury®)

Effective May 30, 2025

Overview

As of May 30, 2025, remdesivir is listed on the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Formulary as a Limited Use (LU) benefit. This medication is funded under the ODB program for eligible ODB program in accordance with ODB program rules.

The terms and conditions for dispensing this medication now align with the Ontario Drug Programs Reference Manual (the Manual). The Manual and this EO Notice are Ministry Policies that pharmacy operators must comply with under section 3.2 of the HNS Subscription Agreement for Pharmacy Operators.

NOTE: The remaining provincial supply of publicly funded remdesivir expires on October 31, 2025. To ensure that the remaining provincial supply of remdesivir is utilized, pharmacies should continue to acquire and dispense the remaining provincial supply for eligible patients, prior to purchasing remdesivir that would be funded under the ODB Program. (See Appendix A on page 3 of this EO Notice for more information).

Patient Eligibility

A claim may be submitted for remdesivir in accordance with ODB program rules for an eligible ODB recipient who meets the LU criteria for remdesivir as a non-hospitalized individual at high-risk for progression to severe COVID-19. Please see the LU criteria for more information.

General Billing Information

For billing information related to claims for extemporaneous preparations, see Section 6.1 of the Manual, Extemporaneous Preparations, including Extemporaneous Preparations Claims Requirements. Claims for remdesivir submitted for reimbursement under the Extemporaneous Preparations Policy (EPP) must adhere to all requirements for an extemporaneous preparation for injectable administration.

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 dispensing fee for the total number of remdesivir vials required to complete the course of treatment as prescribed.

Restrictions

- 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 ODB Program rules.

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.

PINs for dispensing publicly-funded remdesivir will be inactivated as of October 31, 2025. The process for submitting claims in the HNS is outlined in Section 5 of the Manual.

Additional Information:

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.

Appendix A: Dispensing Remaining Provincial Supply of Remdesivir (ends October 31, 2025)

The remaining provincial supply of remdesivir (Veklury®) expires October 31, 2025. To ensure that the remaining provincial supply of remdesivir is utilized, pharmacies should attempt to acquire and dispense the remaining provincial supply of remdesivir prior to placing orders from pharmaceutical distributors for remdesivir that will be funded under the ODB Program. The provincial supply is available through McKesson (Item #177465); pharmacies must email OPDPinfo@ontario.ca to access this supply. Once the provincial supply of remdesivir is used or expired, pharmacies may place orders for remdesivir and dispense under the ODB program.

Individual Eligibility – Dispensing of Remaining Provincial Supply of Remdesivir

A pharmacy may submit a claim for dispensing remaining provincial supply of remdesivir in accordance with the criteria detailed in the previous EO Notice dated November 17, 2023.

Billing Information – Dispensing of Remaining Provincial Supply of Remdesivir

No drug cost will be paid to pharmacies for dispensing the remaining provincial supply of remdesivir as pharmacies will receive remdesivir free-of-charge through participating pharmaceutical distributors (McKesson). There is **no cost** to eligible individuals who receive the remaining provincial supply of remdesivir at a pharmacy.

Documentation– Dispensing of Remaining Provincial Supply of Remdesivir

Pharmacies must keep a record of every course of provincially-supplied 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. 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. For other documentation requirements to dispense publicly funded remdesivir, see the EO Notice dated November 17, 2023.

Transitioning Remdesivir (Veklury®) to ODB Coverage – Frequently Asked Questions

This document is not intended to provide or take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, or legal advice.

1. What is changing with respect to remdesivir coverage?

Remdesivir will now be funded under the ODB Program as Limited Use (LU) benefits for eligible ODB recipients.

Patients receiving professional home and community care services arranged through Ontario Health atHome are automatically covered by the Ontario Drug Benefit program.

The remaining provincial supply of publicly funded remdesivir expires on October 31, 2025. To ensure that the remaining provincial supply of remdesivir is utilized, pharmacies should continue to acquire and dispense the remaining provincial supply for eligible patients, prior to purchasing remdesivir that would be funded under the ODB Program (see Appendix A on page 3).

2. Why is this change occurring?

Access to the supply of provincial supply of remdesivir through the EO Notice was introduced in 2023 as a temporary, extraordinary measure during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ontario is normalizing access to COVID-19 treatments in line with existing drug funding processes by funding the dispensing of remdesivir under the ODB Program.

3. How do pharmacies obtain supply of remdesivir (Veklury®) for dispensing under the ODB program?

As of May 30, 2025, remdesivir products are listed on the ODB Formulary as LU benefits. Pharmacies can order remdesivir through their preferred pharmaceutical distributor. Pharmacies can contact their pharmaceutical distributor for details on the ordering process.

Please note, any remaining provincial supply of remdesivir will be available through McKesson Canada (McKesson (Item #177465), with a last dispensing date of Oct 28, 2025 (to allow for a 3-day course of treatment before expiry). Pharmacies should take all efforts to dispense the remainder of this supply of remdesivir by Oct 28, 2025.

4. When does the transition for remdesivir come into effect?

Remdesivir will be funded under the ODB program as of May 30, 2025.

Please note, the remaining provincial supply of remdesivir (made available to pharmacies at no cost) under the EO Notice will expire on Oct 31, 2025. Participating pharmacies should take all efforts to dispense the remainder of this supply of remdesivir by Oct 31, 2025.

5. Will there be EAP coverage for remdesivir?

No. Remdesivir will only be funded through the ODB Program as an LU benefit. EAP requests for remdesivir will not be approved.

6. Are there any changes to how prescriptions for remdesivir need to be issued?

Yes, in the case of a patient who is an ODB recipient and who satisfies the LU criteria to have remdesivir publicly funded under the ODB program, the main change is that the appropriate LU code (i.e., Reason For Use code) must be provided on the prescription in order for the pharmacy's claim for payment for dispensing remdesivir to be eligible for funding.

7. What is the Limited Use (LU) criteria for an ODB recipient to qualify for remdesivir coverage under the ODB program?

Please refer to ODB Formulary for the Limited Use criteria for remdesivir (effective May 30, 2025).

8. How do pharmacies participate in dispensing remdesivir (Veklury®) for COVID-19 under the ODB program?

In order to be eligible to submit claims for dispensing services related to remdesivir (Veklury™) for eligible individuals, pharmacies (hereinafter referred to as "pharmacy" or "pharmacies") must have a Health Network System (HNS) account and valid HNS Subscription Agreement with the ministry.

9. Can a pharmacist still submit a claim for payment if an eligible individual forgot to provide their Ontario health number?

No. If the patient has an Ontario health number, then the pharmacist needs the individual's Ontario health number in order to submit the claim for payment through the HNS.