

# MEMO

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## Access to Paxlovid: Information for health care providers caring for patients in the community

Dear colleagues,

As of April 11, 2022 Health Canada announced that Paxlovid, an oral COVID-19 treatment will be available in more communities via Clinical Assessment Centres and local pharmacies.

To support our primary care and community-based physicians to determine the appropriate patient eligibility, how to prescribe for their own patients and when to forward a referral to a local COVID, Cold and Flu Care Clinic, we have included the following information:

### Clinical criteria:

1. The individual has received a positive COVID-19 test result; and
2. The individual will be starting Paxlovid treatment within 5 days of symptom onset; and
3. One of the following factors applies to the individual:
  - a) The individual is 18 years of age or older and is immunocompromised;
  - b) The individual is 70 years of age or older;
  - c) The individual is 60 years of age or older and has received less than three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine;
  - d) The individual is 18 years of age or older, has received less than three doses of COVID-19 vaccine, and has at least one of the following risk conditions:
    - obesity
    - diabetes
    - heart disease, hypertension, congestive heart failure
    - chronic respiratory disease (including cystic fibrosis)
    - cerebral palsy
    - intellectual and developmental disabilities
    - sickle cell disease
    - moderate or severe kidney disease
    - moderate or severe liver disease
    - pregnant and unvaccinated (zero doses)
  - e) The individual is assessed as being at higher risk of severe COVID-19 based on their age, vaccination status, and risk conditions (excluding risks due to travel) by their prescriber.

### Referral process:

- A referral form has been included with the communication that can be used for your patients and sent to [a community pharmacy dispensing Paxlovid](#).
- **For more complex and/or high-risk patients**, please consider sending a referral to the COVID, Cold and Flu Care Clinic in Milton led by Dr. Arieg Badawi who will assess eligible patients for Paxlovid in the Halton Region. 1225 Maple Ave., Unit 200, Milton, L9T 5Y9, Phone: 905-462-2103 FAX to (833) 222-8775

Thank you for your ongoing support,



Dr. Kris Martiniuk