

## Nirmatrelvir plus Ritonavir: Adis Evaluation

### Clinical Considerations

- Potent inhibitor of the main protease of SARS-CoV-2, co-packaged with a pharmacokinetic booster
- Administered orally twice daily for 5 days
- Reduces the risk of hospitalization or death in patients at high risk of progressing to severe COVID-19
- Generally well tolerated
- May be associated with significant drug-drug interactions

### Plain Language Summary

#### *Background and rationale*

- Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is the cause of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) global pandemic.
- Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (Paxlovid™) is an oral antiviral treatment for COVID-19 that reduces the ability of SARS-CoV-2 to multiply in the body. The active substance nirmatrelvir blocks the activity of an enzyme needed by the virus to multiply, while ritonavir slows the breakdown of nirmatrelvir to increase its therapeutic benefit.

#### *Clinical findings*

- Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir reduces the risk of hospitalization or death in patients who are at increased risk for progression to severe COVID-19.
- Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir is generally well tolerated; most adverse events were mild or moderate in severity.
- Drug-drug interactions are possible.

#### *Conclusion*

Nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir is an important treatment option for COVID-19 in patients whose age or underlying health puts them at high risk for becoming severely ill.

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