Pharmacy FAQs on Paxlovid

General Questions:

1. **Who is eligible for Paxlovid therapy?**
   Symptomatic adult patients (18 years and older) with mild disease who are at high risk of disease progression and are within Day 5 of symptom onset are eligible to receive Paxlovid™ if they are:
   - Unvaccinated/Under-vaccinated: (defined as a single dose or less of an approved two dose vaccine)
   - Must have at least 1 or more risk factors below
   - Regardless of vaccination status:
     - Immunocompromised (due to underlying medical condition or medication)
     - Age 70 or older + 3 or more risk factors below
     - Age 70 or older, Indigenous (regardless of SK geographic location) + 2 or more risk factors below
     - Age 70 or older, residing in the north (NE1/2, NW1, AHA) + 2 or more risk factors below

   Risk factors include:
   - Age 55 and older (only if unvaccinated/under-vaccinated)
   - Diabetes
   - BMI greater than 30 kg/m2
   - Sickle Cell Disease
   - Chronic kidney disease with a decreased eGFR (must be greater than 30 mL/min/1.73m2)
   - Immunocompromised
   - Cardiovascular or Cerebrovascular Disease (Hypertension, Coronary Artery Disease, Congestive Heart Failure, Congenital Heart Disease, Cardiomyopathy, Stroke, Atrial fibrillation, Hyperlipidemia)
   - Neurodevelopmental disorders (i.e., cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome) or other conditions that confer medical complexity (i.e., genetic or metabolic syndromes and severe congenital anomalies)
   - Chronic Lung Disease (COPD, Moderate-Severe Asthma, Cystic Fibrosis, Pulmonary Fibrosis, Pulmonary Hypertension)

2. **Paxlovid needs to be started on or before Day 5. How is this defined?**
   - Day of symptom onset is considered Day 0. For example, patient reports onset of symptom(s) on Monday (i.e. Day 0) the patient then has until Saturday (i.e. Day 5) to begin Paxlovid therapy.

3. **Who can help me if I need clinical support assessing or prescribing a Paxlovid prescription?**
   - There are various resources available to assist in assessing or prescribing Paxlovid. medSask has many resources available on their website but will also be able to assist you over the phone (1-800-667-3425 or 306-966-6340 Saskatoon) or via e-mail (druginfo@usask.ca).

4. **If I want to start or stop prescribing or dispensing Paxlovid, what do I need to do?**
   - If you are interested in participating or are no longer able to participate in the program, please notify the DPEBB. A list of participating pharmacies is posted on the government website for public access (the website will be live at 2pm May 19). Any changes in status need to come to the DPEBB as soon as possible so this list can be updated accordingly.

Pharmacy Paxlovid Distribution:

5. **What if I receive a Paxlovid prescription issued on something other than the approved medSask *Prescriber Assessment Mild COVID-19 (Paxlovid)* form?**
    - As prescribers transition to the medSask *Prescriber Assessment Mild Covid-19 (Paxlovid)* form, prescriptions on the *SHA COVID-19 Pandemic Practitioner Order Set* are still valid until June 20, 2022. Paxlovid prescriptions can ONLY be filled if they are written on one of these two approved forms.

6. **I don't currently have a McKesson account; can I still be a distributing pharmacy?**
    - Yes, the DPEBB will work with McKesson to ensure that your pharmacy will have access the provincial publicly-funded supply of Paxlovid.

7. **Can I send Paxlovid stock from my pharmacy to another pharmacy?**
    - Yes. However, DPEBB approval is required prior to transfer. Contact the DPEBB at DPEBimmunizations@health.gov.sk.ca to submit your transfer request.

Pharmacist Prescribing:

8. **If my pharmacy is already listed as dispensing Paxlovid, do I need to register my pharmacy as a Paxlovid prescriber too?**
    - Yes. Pharmacies that are interested in prescribing Paxlovid need to register with the DPEBB by emailing DPEBimmunizations@health.gov.sk.ca.

9. **Can I prescribe or provide Paxlovid to patients from out-of-province?**
    - Yes, pharmacists can prescribe and fill a Paxlovid prescription for a patient who is from out-of-province.
    - Similarly, the pharmacy is eligible for the Ineligibility/Referral Assessment fees when declining to prescribe or provide Paxlovid to out-of-province patients if it is deemed that upon review, they are no longer eligible for Paxlovid therapy.
    - If prescribing or providing Paxlovid to a patient without a Saskatchewan Health Services Number, email the DPEBB to track utilization and to arrange for an alternate fee billing process.

10. **Can one pharmacy prescribe and another pharmacy distribute Paxlovid to the same patient?**
    - Yes, a pharmacist can prescribe Paxlovid to a patient and then another pharmacy can fill the Paxlovid prescription. The prescribing pharmacist must ensure that the entire *Prescriber Assessment Mild Covid-19 (Paxlovid)* form is sent to the pharmacy filling the prescription. The pharmacy filling the prescription (Pharmacy B) submits the Paxlovid drug claim (Paxlovid Distribution Fee) **FIRST** and then the pharmacy that prescribed (Pharmacy A) can submit the Minor Ailment Fee: COVID-19 (Paxlovid) after that.

11. **Patient is eligible for referral to the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) Specialized Early COVID Therapeutics Team. What documents do I need to send them?**
    - When referring patients to the SHA Specialized Early COVID Therapeutics Team, please send them the full *Prescriber Assessment Mild Covid-19 (Paxlovid)* (PAR). Prior to sending, please ensure the PAR is completed to the best of your ability to avoid potential delays in therapy and inappropriate referrals.

12. **How do I refer patients to the SHA Specialized Early COVID Therapeutics Team for complex Paxlovid review or remdesivir therapy?**
    - Please e-mail the completed Prescriber Assessment Mild COVID-19 (Paxlovid) to c19meds@saskhealthauthority.ca . Include "PLEASE ASSESS FOR COMPLEX PAXLOVID REVIEW OR REMESIVIR THERAPY" in the e-mail subject line.

Paxlovid Professional Service Fees:

13. **I receive a prescription from a prescriber and upon my review, a drug interaction is identified. What do I do? What fees can I claim?**
    - If the drug interaction can be managed in collaboration with the prescriber, the Paxlovid prescription can be filled and the pharmacy is eligible for the $20 Paxlovid Distribution Fee.
    - If the drug interaction requires escalation or the patient is eligible for remdesivir, the pharmacist, in collaboration with the prescriber, can refer the patient to the SHA Specialized Early COVID Therapeutics Team and communicate this to the prescriber. The pharmacy is then eligible to claim the $18.00 Ineligibility/Referral Assessment Fee- Other Prescriber or Ineligibility/Referral Assessment Fee- Pharmacist Prescriber.
    - If the drug interaction cannot be managed, the patient is no longer eligible for Paxlovid t - Other Prescriber or Ineligibility/Referral Assessment Fee- Pharmacist Prescriber.

14. **I received a prescription from a prescriber and I have a treatment concern that I am unable to manage without prescriber intervention but I am unable to reach the prescriber.**
    - If after every attempt to reach the prescriber is unsuccessful but you feel the patient is eligible for Paxlovid treatment and time is of the essence, please refer the patient to the Specialized Early COVID Therapeutics Team. Please provide them with the completed Prescriber Assessment Mild COVID-19 (Paxlovid) form with your concerns documented.
    - See Question 12 for referral process.

15. **A fully vaccinated non-immunocompromised 35 year-old male with no risk factors is requesting Paxlovid from you to treat his COVID-19 infection. Am I able to claim an $18 Ineligibility/Referral Assessment-Pharmacist Prescriber fee, as the patient is ineligible for Paxlovid treatment?**
    - No. As this patient doesn't require an in depth review of their medical and/or drug history to determine eligibility, the pharmacy is not eligible for the Ineligibility/Referral Assessment Fee-Pharmacist Prescriber. Only incidences where the patient initially meets eligibility criteria but upon review by the pharmacist of their drug and/or medical history, the pharmacist determines that the patient should be referred or is no longer eligible, would the pharmacy be eligible to claim for the $18 Ineligibility/Referral Assessment Fee- Pharmacy Prescriber.

16. **When I try to enter the Minor Ailment Fee-COVID-19 (Paxlovid), I get a PG error code. What can I do to resolve it?**
    - The PG (Professional Services Fee Not Allowed) error code usually results from the system not seeing the required drug claim. To avoid this error, please ensure that the pharmacy submits the Paxlovid drug claim (Paxlovid Distribution Fee) **FIRST** and then the pharmacy can submit the professional service fee.

Training:

17. Is the training mandatory for pharmacists to prescribe Paxlovid?

- SCPP expects that, as with all pharmacists' scope of practice, pharmacists must have the required skills, knowledge, education, and competencies prior to prescribing and/or dispensing Paxlovid to ensure the safety of the public.

For more information, contact DPEBimmunizations@health.gov.sk.ca