

How to manipulate nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid) tablets

Guidance for Paxlovid administration if patients are unable to swallow tablets whole

To be completed immediately before administration.
Administer immediately once prepared.

Care providers preparing/administering nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid) according to this procedure are recommended to wear gloves and a mask. These medications are NOT known to be hazardous.

NIRMATRELVIR PINK TABLET(S)

 Do not
crush or
split

BY MOUTH OR BY ENTERAL TUBE* E.G. NG-TUBE

- Remove syringe cap and plunger.
- Place **whole** tablet(s) in a 20 mL enteral or oral syringe that is labeled "nirmaltrevir."
- Replace plunger until just in contact with tablet(s).
- Draw up **10 mL of room temperature water** (e.g. tap, bottled, sterile) into syringe.
- Point syringe up and draw in **5 mL of air**.
- Place syringe cap on and shake well for **15 seconds**. If tablet(s) stick to the wall of the syringe, gently tap the barrel of the syringe on a clean surface to dislodge and ensure contact with water.
- Lie syringe flat for a minimum of **3 minutes** to allow the tablet(s) to disintegrate. Suspension should appear milky **PALE PINK**.
- Administer suspension by enteral tube as directed or as per local policy/guidelines (i.e., flushing, etc.) or mix suspension in a small amount of soft food (as below for ritonavir) and take by mouth.



***USE WITH 8FRENCH OR
LARGER SIZE ENTERAL TUBE**

RITONAVIR WHITE TABLET

 Can be
crushed
or split



BY MOUTH

- Tablets can be split or crushed as needed to allow swallowing.
- Split/crushed tablets may be added to apple sauce, pudding, or any "soft" food or liquid including dairy-containing products.

BY ENTERAL TUBE*

- Crush tablet as directed or according to local policy/guidelines.
- Add syringe cap. Remove plunger.
- Place crushed tablet in a 20 mL enteral or oral syringe that is labeled "ritonavir." Replace plunger then remove cap and gently push out most of the air.
- Draw up 10 mL of room temperature water (e.g. tap, bottled or sterile) into syringe. Point syringe up and draw in 5 mL of air.
- **Place syringe cap on and shake well for 15 seconds.**
- Lay syringe flat for **3 minutes**, then shake well for **1 minute**. Suspension should appear milky white.
- Administer suspension by enteral tube as directed or according to local policy/guidelines (i.e., flushing, etc.).



***USE WITH 8FRENCH OR
LARGER SIZE ENTERAL TUBE**