

Fact Sheet

COVID-19 Treatment: Remdesivir (Veklury®)

Patient Information

This information sheet does not constitute medical advice and is for general information only. Readers should always seek independent professional advice where appropriate

How does remdesivir (Veklury®) work?

Remdesivir (Veklury®) is an antiviral medicine that stops the COVID-19 virus from multiplying in your body. This reduces the risk of your infection getting worse. It may also help you feel better and stay out of hospital.

Remdesivir (Veklury®) does not prevent you from giving COVID-19 to others.

How to take remdesivir (Veklury®)

Veklury® is given by intravenous infusion over 30 to 120 minutes, once a day, for 3 days.

Nurses usually give Veklury® in a COVID Care Centre. Nurses can also give Veklury® in your home if you are unable to come into a centre. You can discuss this option during your consultation.

What are some common side effects?

All medicines can have side effects. If they occur, side effects are usually temporary.

Some common Veklury® side effects include:

- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Headache
- Blood pressure changes
- Slow heartbeat
- Fever
- Sweating or shivering
- Shortness of breath
- Pain or bruising at the injection site
- Rash

These can be managed with paracetamol, fluids, or by giving the medicine more slowly. Most side effects are expected to go away after the infusion finishes. However, some side effects may persist for a few days.

Nurses will monitor you during and for 15 minutes after the Veklury® infusion is given. This is to monitor for any side effects or reactions, and to treat them if they occur.

Some more serious side effects include chest pain or pressure, swelling of the throat, face or lips, and difficulty breathing. It is important that you tell the COVID Care Centre staff immediately if you experience any of these symptoms. If you are at home when you experience these symptoms, you should call 000.

Speak to your doctor if you experience any side effects that worry you, or that are not listed here.



Can I receive remdesivir (Veklury®) if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

It is important to tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding before you receive any COVID-19 treatment.

Veklury® can be used in pregnancy

Veklury® is not expected to pass into breastmilk.

Who should not receive remdesivir (Veklury®)?

People who are allergic to remdesivir or any other component of the medicine should not take Veklury®.

Veklury® is not recommended for people that are less than 12 years old or less than 40kg.

Veklury® is also not recommended for people with severe kidney or liver disease.

You should tell your doctor if you are taking hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine, as these medicines may interfere with Veklury®.

Can I still receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

You should not get a COVID-19 vaccine until 6 months after your COVID-19 illness.

For more information

Medicines Information Service

T: (08) 8161 7555

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm

E: medinfo@sa.gov.au

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