

## Guidance for Outpatient Treatment of COVID-19 in Pediatric Patients

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### Introduction

As of this writing, there are four FDA-authorized treatments for outpatients with COVID-19 that are likely to be effective against currently circulating Omicron variants: **nirmatrelvir plus ritonavir (Paxlovid)**, **bebtelovimab**, **remdesivir**, and **molnupiravir**. In general, these drugs have been evaluated for their efficacy in preventing hospitalization in adults considered at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19.

There are important considerations and limitations in pediatric patients. Children have not been included in most studies demonstrating the safety and efficacy of these drugs. For children under 12 and/or under 40 kg, only remdesivir is authorized to be given in any setting.

### Overview of Available Products

Drug	Age/weight	Administration	Mechanism	Efficacy	Considerations
Paxlovid	≥12 years ≥40 kg	3 tablets PO twice daily x 5 days	Direct-acting antiviral	High	CYP3A inhibitor: extensive drug-drug interactions.
Bebtelovimab	≥12 years ≥40 kg	Single IV dose	Monoclonal antibody	High	IV infusion required.
Remdesivir	FDA approved: >28 days, ≥3 kg	Daily IV dose x 3 days	Direct-acting antiviral	High	IV infusion chair needed for three straight days. Patients may have unreimbursed cost
Molnupiravir	≥18 years	1 capsule PO twice daily x 5 days	Direct-acting antiviral	Low	Potential mutagenicity – avoid in pregnant and pediatric patients

### How to Order Outpatient COVID-19 Therapy

Ordering follows the same procedure as for adults and is explained in the [Ordering Tip Sheet](#). The COVID-19 Therapy Coordinators will determine eligibility within current prioritization level and most appropriate therapeutic option for referred patients.

### Summary and Recommendations

- Pediatric patients with COVID-19 should be assessed for risk for progression to more severe disease, as defined by [UNC Health's Outpatient Prioritization Protocol for COVID-19 Therapies](#).
- Only pediatric patients meeting age and weight limits and with high risk of progression to severe COVID-19 should be referred for consideration of outpatient treatment.
- Consultation with Pediatric Infectious Diseases is recommended prior to requesting outpatient therapy for children with COVID-19 infection.
- The preference order for treatments is similar to that in adults: Paxlovid, then bebtelovimab, then remdesivir. Molnupiravir is not authorized for patients under age 18 and has limited efficacy.
- Patients may have copays for treatment, and some insurances may not reimburse fully. Insurance status and anticipated copays are addressed by the COVID-19 Therapy Coordinators.
- Paxlovid candidates should have updated medication lists and be assessed for [drug-drug interactions](#).
- The most updated guidance can be found on the [UNC Health Intranet COVID-19 Therapeutics page](#).