

# Patient Information Sheet for Remdesivir (Veklury®)

This information sheet is about a medicine called remdesivir (Veklury®). Remdesivir is used to treat coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). This information is to help you understand the possible benefits and possible risks of this medicine.

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## About remdesivir

Remdesivir is a medication used to help treat people who are in the hospital with COVID-19. This drug can be used with other treatments or as the only treatment, depending on how sick a patient is.

Remdesivir has not been fully approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) because it is still being studied. However, the FDA is letting it be used while more studies are done. Europe and Japan are also using remdesivir to treat COVID-19.

The FDA can give emergency approval to use medications like remdesivir during medical emergencies, such as the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19. FDA gives emergency approval when early studies seem to show the medication is safe and effective. This approval is called an Emergency Use Authorization.

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## Possible benefits of remdesivir

Remdesivir may help you get better faster if you have COVID-19. It may reduce how much virus is in your body. In studies, patients who were given remdesivir recovered from their illness faster. In one study, the average length of illness went from 15 days down to 11 days. Remdesivir may help patients at all stages of COVID-19. It may also lower the risk of death from COVID-19 if patients get the drug early on in their illness, before they have trouble breathing on their own and need a ventilator.

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## Possible risks of remdesivir

As remdesivir is still being studied, it is possible that we do not know all of the side effects yet. However, many people in clinical trials, as well as Minnesota residents, have been treated with remdesivir. The most common side effects reported in studies were headache, nausea, low potassium levels, abnormal liver enzymes, or abnormal kidney function. It is possible to have an allergic reaction to a medication, which might cause low blood pressure, wheezing or swelling in your lips or face. Currently, the benefits of remdesivir appear to outweigh any risk of side effects, but your doctor will monitor you carefully while you are on the treatment.

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## More information

Ask your doctor for more information about remdesivir. The FDA has a detailed fact sheet for patients with more information about the treatment. You can ask your provider for the FDA factsheet. The choice of treatment is up to you and you may stop treatment at any time.

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## Remdesivir supply in Minnesota

Minnesota receives shipments of remdesivir every week from the U.S. government based on the number of people in the hospital with COVID-19. Hospitals throughout the state can buy remdesivir and the Minnesota Department of Health can help hospitals access remdesivir, if needed. Decisions about treatment with remdesivir are based on how sick you are; it is not based on age, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, insurance status, citizenship status, or other factors.

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## What to do next

- Ask your doctor about all your treatment choices, including remdesivir.
- Tell your doctor about all the medicines you are currently taking.
- Choose someone who can help you to make medical decisions and can speak for you if you cannot speak for yourself. Make sure that person knows what is important to you.

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## About COVID-19

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus, known as a coronavirus, which has not been found in people before. Since December 2019, this virus has spread to many countries around the world, including the United States. You can get COVID-19 by breathing in virus particles exhaled by someone else who has the virus. Some people with COVID-19 can have no symptoms. Other people have very mild illness, like a cold. COVID-19 can also make people sick enough to be in the hospital or in an intensive care unit.



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