

Remdesivir (Outpatient Education for Infusion) and IV Site Care

Pronunciation

(rem DE si vir)

What is this medication used for?

- It is used in certain people to treat COVID-19.

What do I need to discuss with my provider BEFORE I take this medication?

- If you are allergic to this medication or any other medications, foods, or substances. Tell your provider about the allergy and what symptoms you had.
- If you have kidney disease.
- If you have liver disease or raised liver enzymes.
- If you are taking Chloroquine or Hydroxychloroquine.
- This is not a list of all medications or health problems that interact with this medication.
- Tell your provider and pharmacist about all of your medications (prescription or over the counter, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this medication with all of your medications and health problems.

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this medication?

- Tell your health care providers that you received this medication. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the provider. Talk with the provider.
- Tell your provider if you are pregnant, plan on getting pregnant, or are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to you and the baby.

What are some side effects that I need to call my provider about right away?

- Even though it may be rare, some people may have serious side effects when taking medication.
- Signs of an allergic reaction, like **rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.**
- Signs of liver problems like dark urine, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.
- Infusion reactions have happened with this medication. Tell the provider right away if you notice sweating a lot; shivering; fever; fast or slow heartbeat; severe upset stomach or throwing up; signs of high or low blood pressure like severe headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight; shortness of breath or wheezing; or any other effects during or after the infusion.

- All medications may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your provider or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away.

How is this medication best taken?

- Use this medication as ordered by your provider. Read all the information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.
- It is given as an infusion into a vein daily for three days.
- **Do Not skip appointments.**

General medication facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your provider.

IV Infusion Therapy

Your doctor has ordered medication for you that must be given through a vein intravenously (IV).

An intravenous is a very thin plastic tube or “catheter” inserted into a vein and secured with a clear dressing. It can be “locked” with a saline solution so that the same vein can be used many times.

This prevents the nurse from having to insert a new catheter each time you need intravenous therapy.

A saline lock is the IV catheter and the clear plastic extension tubing.

The veins that might be used are on the back of the hand, above the wrist or in the upper forearm.

As soon as the catheter is not working correctly, or the site is painful or red the nurse will remove it and replace it with a new one. The catheter will be replaced as often as needed during your course of treatment.

In order to keep it dry when bathing or showering, cover/wrap the area very well with plastic wrap or a plastic bag. The edges should be taped closed to prevent water from leaking underneath. Once done you should remove the plastic covering.

- Do not get the saline lock wet – cover with plastic when bathing or taking a shower.
- Do not swim with the saline lock.
- Do not rub or scratch the saline lock.
- **Do not allow** any person to handle the saline lock outside of the hospital.
- Do not attempt to access the saline lock for any reason.

If your IV comes out, apply pressure to site until bleeding stops.

General Care for SARS COVID-19

- Avoid dehydration – drink water, or fluids with electrolytes such as Gatorade, Powerade, Pedialyte
- Avoid pneumonia - cough and deep breath frequently throughout the day
- Stay mobile and avoid too much activity – move around throughout the day
- Sleep on your stomach (if you can). You may also sleep on your side, propped up with pillows, or sit in a recliner. **DO NOT** sleep on your back.
- Wash your hands and clean things you come in contact with frequently while you are sick.
- Receiving this medication does not change or shorten your quarantine time. Your provider should tell you how long you should quarantine.

References:

Lexicomp. **Remdesivir** (Patient Education - Adult Medication). (10/30/20).

Vancouver Coastal Health (12/2014). **Caring for your saline lock at home: Guide for patients who are discharged with saline locks.** Retrieved 1/12/22 from <http://vch.eduhealth.ca>