

Patient information factsheet

Remdesivir for treatment of COVID-19

Information for patients, families and carers

You have been given this factsheet because you are due to receive treatment for coronavirus (COVID-19) with a medicine called remdesivir. This factsheet contains important information about your treatment. Please keep it in a safe place in case you need to refer to it later.

What is remdesivir?

Remdesivir is an antiviral medicine used to treat early coronavirus (COVID-19) infection and help to prevent more severe symptoms.

How does remdesivir work?

Remdesivir works by stopping the virus that causes coronavirus (COVID-19) from growing and spreading in the body. This can help your body to overcome the virus infection and may help you get better faster.

Is there anyone who may not be able to have remdesivir?

You will not usually be given this treatment if you are allergic to remdesivir or its ingredients (betadex sulfobutyl ether sodium). Check with your healthcare professional if you think this applies to you. Before you have this medicine, tell your doctor if you:

- have problems with your kidneys
- have problems with your liver

How is remdesivir given?

You will have remdesivir treatment once a day for 3 days.

Remdesivir will be made up into a solution and given to you via a drip (infusion) into a vein by a healthcare professional. The treatment will be given slowly and can last from 30 minutes to 2 hours. You will be monitored during and after your treatment.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Ask your healthcare professional for advice before receiving remdesivir if you:

- are pregnant
- think you may be pregnant
- are planning to have a baby.

It is not known whether remdesivir can pass into breast milk, so tell your healthcare professional if you are breastfeeding.

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Side effects

Like all medicines, remdesivir may cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Common side effects (can happen in up to 1 in 10 people):

- headache
- feeling sick or being sick (nausea or vomiting)

Serious side effects

Tell your doctor or nurse if you feel that your heart is beating slower than normal. This may make you feel dizzy, short of breath or very tired.

Call 999 or go to an emergency department immediately if you experience any of the following:

- feel confused
- have chest pain
- faint or pass out
- have difficulty breathing

Serious allergic reaction

In rare cases, remdesivir may cause a serious allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

Call 999 or go to an emergency department immediately if you experience any of the following:

- a skin rash that may include itchy red, swollen, blistered or peeling skin
- wheezing
- tightness in the chest or throat
- trouble breathing or talking
- swelling of your mouth, face, lips, tongue or throat

You could be having a serious allergic reaction and may need immediate treatment in hospital.

Contact us

If you experience increased symptoms or side effects after your remdesivir treatment contact the University Hospital Southampton (UHS) Medicines Helpline on telephone: **023 8120 6907** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 6.30pm).

Useful links

www.nhs.uk/medicines/remdesivir/

www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/

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For help preparing for your visit, arranging an interpreter or accessing the hospital, please visit **www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalsupport**