

Specialty Guideline Management

Veklury

Products Referenced by this Document

Drugs that are listed in the following table include both brand and generic and all dosage forms and strengths unless otherwise stated. Over-the-counter (OTC) products are not included unless otherwise stated.

Brand Name	Generic Name
Veklury	remdesivir

Indications

The indications below including FDA-approved indications and compendial uses are considered a covered benefit provided that all the approval criteria are met and the member has no exclusions to the prescribed therapy.

FDA-approved Indications¹

Veklury is indicated for the treatment of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in adults and pediatric patients (birth to less than 18 years of age weighing at least 1.5 kg) who are:

- Hospitalized, or
- Not hospitalized and have mild-to-moderate COVID-19, and are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death.

Note: the criteria outlined in this policy is only applicable to coverage in the outpatient setting. Hospitalized patients receiving Veklury for the treatment of COVID-19 will be managed according to the member's inpatient benefit.

All other indications are considered experimental/investigational and not medically necessary.

Reference number(s)
4330-A

Documentation

Submission of the following information is necessary to initiate the prior authorization review: medical records documenting positive COVID-19 infection, hepatic laboratory testing, and prothrombin time.

Coverage Criteria

Treatment of COVID-19 in Non-Hospitalized, High Risk Patients¹⁻³

Authorization of 30 days may be granted for the treatment of COVID-19 in non-hospitalized, high risk patients when all of the following criteria are met:

- Member has a confirmed active infection with COVID-19.
- Member weighs at least 1.5 kg.
- Member has at least one ongoing symptom consistent with COVID-19 within 7 days before treatment (e.g., fever, cough, fatigue, shortness of breath, sore throat, headache, myalgia/arthralgia).
- Member is non-hospitalized and is at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19 (e.g., chronic lung diseases, diabetes mellitus, obesity (BMI > 30), heart conditions), including hospitalization or death.
- Hepatic function and prothrombin time have been assessed prior to starting the requested medication and will be monitored while receiving therapy as clinically appropriate.
- Member will not receive a total duration of therapy greater than 3 days for an individual infection.
- The requested medication will not be administered in combination with chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine.
- The requested medication will be administered in a setting where severe hypersensitivity reactions, such as anaphylaxis, can be managed.

References

1. Veklury [package insert]. Foster City, CA: Gilead Sciences, Inc.; January 2025.
2. Gottlieb RL, Vaca CE, Paredes R, et al. Early Remdesivir to Prevent Progression to Severe Covid-19 in Outpatients. *N Engl J Med.* 2022;386(4):305-315.
3. NIH. The COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel's Statement on Therapies for High-Risk, Nonhospitalized Patients With Mild to Moderate COVID-19. <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/therapies/statement-on-therapies-for-high-risk-nonhospitalized-patients/> Accessed: July 30, 2025.