



## WA MEDICINE INFORMATION LEAFLET (WA MIL)

More information may be available for this medicine in the form of Consumer Medicines Information (CMI). CMIs are available from hospitals, pharmacies and medical practices and from the Therapeutic Goods Administration website ([www.tga.gov.au/consumer-medicines-information-cmi](http://www.tga.gov.au/consumer-medicines-information-cmi)). The CMI contains important information about your medicine and must be read in conjunction with this leaflet.

# Remdesivir Antiviral For Management of COVID-19

Medicine Name	Examples of Brand Name(s)	Strength(s) and form(s)
Remdesivir	Veklury®	100 mg/20 mL injection (solution) 200mg injection (powder for reconstitution)

### What is remdesivir used for?

- Remdesivir belongs to a group of medicines called antivirals. Antiviral medicines help your body to fight off certain viruses that can cause disease.
- Remdesivir works by stopping the virus that causes COVID-19 from multiplying in the body.
- In Australia, remdesivir is a new medicine that has been provisionally registered to treat COVID-19. Recent clinical trials have shown benefit in some cases of COVID-19. Australia's National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce has made recommendations for its use in some patients with COVID-19.

### How is remdesivir given?

- Remdesivir is an injection that is given once a day by slow infusion into a vein, usually for 3 to 5 days depending on the severity of infection. The infusion can take between 30 and 120 minutes each time.
- The usual dose is 200 mg on day 1 and 100 mg on days 2 to 5. Your doctor will decide what dose is right for you and how many doses you should receive.

### What are the possible side effects? Not all side effects are listed – ask your health care professional for more information.

- Feeling sick in the stomach, wanting to vomit (nausea), vomiting, diarrhoea
- Headache, rash
- Reactions during the infusion including fever or chills, low blood
- Remdesivir can affect the liver. Your doctor will watch for these side effects by doing blood tests.
- Pain, bleeding, bruising of the skin, soreness, swelling and possible



pressure, sweating, shivering

infections at the injection site

### Important information

- All medicines have the potential to cause allergic or hypersensitivity reactions which can be mild or severe. It is important to let your doctor or nurse know immediately if you experience any reactions.
  - Mild reactions include rash, hives itch or blisters.
  - Serious reactions include anaphylaxis such as difficulty breathing, swelling of face and/or lips – let your doctor or nurse know immediately. If you are outside of hospital contact an ambulance immediately.
- Make sure you tell the doctor if you have any liver, heart or kidney problems, diabetes, blood disorders, epilepsy or seizures.
- If you are planning for pregnancy, pregnant or breastfeeding, please let your doctor or nurse know immediately.
  - The effect of remdesivir on fertility is unknown.
  - Remdesivir use in pregnancy will only be considered if the potential benefit is thought to outweigh the risk to the mother or baby.
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  - Remdesivir should be used with caution during breastfeeding.
- Remdesivir may interact with other medicines including over-the-counter and complementary (herbal) medicines, your doctor/pharmacist should be informed about all the medicines you normally take.

Make sure that your doctor, pharmacist, dentist and other healthcare professionals know that you are taking this medicine. Please check all medicines including herbal and 'over-the-counter' medicine(s) with your doctor before taking. The information in this leaflet does not replace the advice of your doctor or pharmacist. If you require more information, speak to your healthcare professional. In case of accidental ingestion or overdose, contact the Poisons Information Centre (131126) immediately.

**This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.**

This leaflet has been developed by the Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park Health Care Group, reviewed and endorsed by the WA Medication Safety Collaborative. Information current at March 2022.

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