



Remdesivir use for COVID-19 in Oregon Frequently Asked Questions

Does the Oregon Health Authority recommend the use of remdesivir in the treatment of COVID-19 patients?

Currently, the Oregon Health Authority is neither recommending nor discouraging the use of remdesivir for the treatment of COVID-19. The drug has not yet been approved by the FDA for the treatment of any condition but the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) permits clinicians to use remdesivir when they believe it to be potentially beneficial to the patient.

What is remdesivir?

Remdesivir is a drug that is still being studied. A clinical trial showed that remdesivir shortened the recovery time in some COVID-19 patients. The FDA has authorized the emergency use of remdesivir for COVID-19 under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). However, there are no FDA-approved medicines to treat COVID-19.

What is an Emergency Use Authorization?

Normally, the FDA requires drug companies to complete careful testing to prove that a drug is safe and effective. Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) are the FDA's way of giving permission to use drugs that haven't been proven safe or effective yet. EUAs are given during emergencies when no other approved, effective drugs are available.

In order to receive an EUA, two major requirements must be met:

1. A drug must meet certain criteria for safety, performance, and labeling.
2. There are no adequate, approved, or available alternatives.

Can remdesivir be used to treat anything else?

No. Emergency Use Authorizations are only given for specific uses. Remdesivir has only been given an EUA to treat certain COVID-19 patients.

Is remdesivir approved by the FDA to treat COVID-19?

No. Remdesivir is an investigational antiviral drug. It is not currently FDA-approved to treat or prevent any diseases, including COVID-19. The FDA has authorized the emergency use of remdesivir for COVID-19 under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). However, there are no FDA-approved medicines to treat COVID-19.

Should I use remdesivir?

The State neither recommends nor discourages the use of remdesivir for the treatment of COVID-19. Patients who are hospitalized with severe COVID-19 should work with health care providers to make informed decisions about their care.

Will Oregon receive additional remdesivir?

The Oregon Health Authority anticipates additional allotments in the future, although the amount and timing are unknown.

How much remdesivir did Oregon receive?

The Oregon Health Authority received allotments of remdesivir on May 12 and May 15, 2020. The allotments included enough remdesivir for 80 patients to receive a 10-day treatment course. As of May 16, this is enough to treat all COVID-19 patients who meet eligibility criteria.

Who can get remdesivir?

Per the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization, hospitals may only give remdesivir to their patients if the patient is hospitalized with severe COVID-19 disease. You can find the full criteria [here](#) under "What does this EUA allow."

Resources:

- [Oregon's Federal Remdesivir Allocation: Prioritization/Distribution Approach](#)
- [FDA Fact Sheet for Patients and Parent/Caregivers – Emergency Use Authorization of Remdesivir For Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [FDA Frequently Asked Question on the Emergency Use Authorization for Remdesivir for Certain Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients](#)

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