

Saudi MoH Protocol for Patients Suspected of/Confirmed with COVID-19

Supportive care and antiviral treatment of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection

(Version 2.1) July 31st, 2020

Disclaimer: This is a living guidance that is subject to change as more evidence accumulates. It will be updated regularly and whenever needed. The guidance should be used to assist healthcare practitioners select the best available pharmacotherapy for COVID-19 infection according to the best available and current evidence and is not intended to replace clinical judgement but rather to complement it. The evidence is inconclusive regarding the efficacy of most medications for covid-19. It is important to explain this to patient and family and obtain informed consent for use of these medications for unapproved indications.

COVID-19 Testing*	Category	Supportive Care	Pharmacotherapy	Precautions
Suspicious Cases (follow case definition published in Saudi CDC guidelines)	Mild to Moderate: Symptoms with no shortness of breath	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat symptoms If no hospital admission required, need to follow instructions and recommendations published by Saudi CDC https://covid19.cdc.gov.sa/professionals-health-workers/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not required Do not stop ACEI/ARBs in patients with hypertension, post-MI, or heart failure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paracetamol (acetaminophen) is the preferred agent for pain/fever see below table "Medication Related Information" Labs and work-up: CBC, Urea/Electrolytes, Creatinine, CRP, LFTs, Chest X-ray, COVID-19 PCR tests
	Mild to Moderate: Symptoms with no shortness of breath in high risk patients [§]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat symptoms If hospital admission is not required, follow instructions and recommendations published by Saudi CDC https://covid19.cdc.gov.sa/professionals-health-workers/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case shall be discussed with infectious disease specialist, to initiate empirical antiviral therapy, while awaiting PCR result. Do not stop ACEI/ARBs in patients with hypertension, post-MI, heart failure 	
	Mild to Moderate: Symptoms with shortness of breath in high risk patients [§]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult Infectious Disease Specialist 	<i>If decision is to treat empirically, follow the treatment option under confirmed by PCR</i>	
PCR Confirmed Cases	Asymptomatic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow instructions and recommendations published by Saudi CDC https://covid19.cdc.gov.sa/professionals-health-workers/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not required 	

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PCR Confirmed Cases	Mild to Moderate: Symptoms (no O ₂ requirements/no evidence of pneumonia but with other symptoms of covid-19 e.g. fever)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat symptoms Follow instructions and recommendations published by Saudi CDC https://covid19.cdc.gov.sa/professionals-health-workers/ 	<p>Consider starting any of the following according to clinical evaluation and treating consultant's discretion):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Triple combination therapy (for adults): Lopinavir /Ritonavir, Ribavirin and interferon beta-1b for 14-days. Start within 7 days from symptoms appearance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lopinavir /Ritonavir <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Dosing: 400/100 mg (2 tablets of 200/50 mg) every 12 hrs. Ribavirin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Dosing: 400mg every 12hrs Interferon beta-1b <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Dosing: 8 MIU on alternative days for 3 doses. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider Favipiravir <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Dosing: 1800 mg/dose twice a day on the first day; followed by 800 mg/dose twice a day for 7-10 days Pediatric Dosing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10-15 kg: Loading Dose: One tablet PO BID for One day (maximum 400 mg/day). Maintenance from Day 2: Half tablet (100 mg) PO BID (maximum 200 mg/day) 16-21 kg: Loading Dose: Two tablets PO BID One day (maximum 800 mg/day). Maintenance from Day2: One Tablet PO BID (maximum 400 mg/day) 22-35 kg: Loading Dose: Three Tablets PO BID for One day (maximum 1200 mg/day). Maintenance from Day2: One tablet PO TID (maximum 600 mg/day) 36-45 kg: Loading Dose: Four tablets PO BID for One day (maximum 1600mg/day). Maintenance from Day2: Two tablets PO BID (maximum 800 mg/day) 46-55 kg: Loading Dose: Five tablets PO BID for One day (maximum 2000 mg/day). Maintenance from Day2: Two Tablets qAM, Three Tablets qPM (maximum 1000 mg/day) For >55 kg: Can use adult dosing if age ≥16 years, if age <16years use dosing of 46-55 kg range <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider starting hydroxychloroquine, if no contraindications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Dosing: 400 mg every 12 hours for 1 day, followed by 200 mg BID for 5 – 7 days Pediatric Dosing: 6.5 mg/kg/dose every 12 hours for day 1 (maximum day 1 dose: 400 mg/dose); followed by 3.25 mg/kg/dose every 12 hours for 5 – 7 days (maximum dose: 200 mg/dose) 	<p>Lopinavir/ritonavir see below table “<i>Medication Related Information</i>”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current evidence doesn't support using Lopinavir/Ritonavir as monotherapy Avoid co-administration with drugs that are highly dependent on CYP3A for clearance or with potent CYP3A inducers (check MOH formulary) Patients with renal and/or hepatic impairment Perform baseline ECG, if QT interval is more than 480 msec, do not use lopinavir/ritonavir. Patients with prolonged QTc less than 480 msec, first-degree heart block or bundle branch block, or bradycardia upon ECG examination, and those who developed increased alanine transaminase of three times the upper limit of normal, reduce lopinavir/ritonavir dose to once per day. <p>Ribavirin see below table “<i>Medication Related Information</i>”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anemia associated with ribavirin may worsen underlying cardiac disease and lead to fatal and nonfatal myocardial infarctions. <p>Interferon beta-1b see below table “<i>Medication Related Information</i>”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If patient presents more than 7 days since symptoms appearance, don't administer interferon beta-1b. <p>Favipiravir (non-formulary and non-SFDA registered) see below table “<i>Medication Related Information</i>”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contraindicated in pregnancy <p>Hydroxychloroquine & Chloroquine see below table “<i>Medication Related Information</i>”</p>

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	Severe: Symptoms ≥ 1 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Respiratory rate ≥30/min (adults); ≥40/min (children < 5 years) - Blood oxygen saturation ≤93% - PaO₂/FiO₂ ratio <300 - Lung infiltrates >50% of the lung field within 24-48 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Treat symptoms - Follow instructions and recommendations published by Saudi CDC https://covid19.cdc.gov.sa/professionals-health-workers/ - ICU admission, decision by ICU treating team - Antibiotics and antifungals according to local antibiogram and institutional pneumonia management guidelines/pathways. 	<p>Consider starting any of the following according to clinical evaluation and treating consultant's discretion):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Triple combination therapy (for adults): Lopinavir /Ritonavir, Ribavirin and interferon beta-1b for 14-days. Start within 7 days from symptoms appearance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lopinavir /Ritonavir <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Adult Dosing: 400/100 mg (2 tablets of 200/50 mg) every 12 hrs. • Ribavirin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Adult Dosing: 400mg every 12hrs • Interferon beta-1b <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Adult Dosing: 8 MIU on alternative days for 3 doses OR - Consider Favipiravir <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Adult Dosing: 1800 mg/dose twice a day on the first day; followed by 800 mg/dose twice a day for 7-10 days. o Pediatric Dosing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10-15 kg: Loading Dose: One tablet PO BID for One day (maximum 400 mg/day). Maintenance from Day 2: Half tablet (100 mg) PO BID (maximum 200 mg/day) - 16-21 kg: Loading Dose: Two tablets PO BID One day (maximum 800 mg/day). Maintenance from Day2: One Tablet PO BID (maximum 400 mg/day) - 22-35 kg: Loading Dose: Three Tablets PO BID for One day (maximum 1200 mg/day). Maintenance from Day2: One tablet PO TID (maximum 600 mg/day) - 36-45 kg: Loading Dose: Four tablets PO BID for One day (maximum 1600mg/day). Maintenance from Day2: Two tablets PO BID (maximum 800 mg/day) - 46-55 kg: Loading Dose: Five tablets PO BID for One day (maximum 2000 mg/day). Maintenance from Day2: Two Tablets qAM, Three Tablets qPM (maximum 1000 mg/day) 	<p>Lopinavir/ritonavir (see precautions above)</p> <p>Ribavirin (see precautions above)</p> <p>Interferon beta-1b (see precautions above)</p> <p>Favipiravir (non-formulary and non-SFDA registered) see below table "Medication Related Information"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contraindicated in pregnancy <p>Dexamethasone see below table "Medication Related Information"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cardiovascular disease: Use with caution in patients with heart failure and/or hypertension; use has been associated with fluid retention, electrolyte disturbances, and hypertension. Use with caution following acute myocardial infarction; corticosteroids have been associated with myocardial rupture. - Diabetes: Use corticosteroids with caution in patients with diabetes mellitus; may alter glucose production/regulation leading to hyperglycemia. - Gastrointestinal disease: Use with caution in patients with GI diseases (diverticulitis, fresh intestinal anastomoses, active or latent peptic ulcer, ulcerative colitis, abscess or other pyogenic infection) due to perforation risk. - Myasthenia gravis: Use with caution in patients with myasthenia gravis; exacerbation of symptoms has occurred especially during initial treatment with corticosteroids.

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	<p>Critical:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Symptoms ≥ 1 of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ARDS ○ Sepsis ○ Altered consciousness ○ Multi-organ failure - <u>Patient with cytokine release syndrome</u> consider starting Tocilizumab - Criteria for patients at high-risk for developing cytokine storm (1 or more of the following): 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Treat symptoms - Follow instructions and recommendations published by Saudi CDC https://covid19.cdc.gov.sa/professionals-health-workers/ - ICU admission and management by ICU treating team - Antibiotics and antifungals according to local antibiogram and institutional pneumonia 	<p>Consider starting any of the following according to clinical evaluation and treating consultant's discretion):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider Remdesivir (once available) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Adult Dosing:</u> 200 mg loading dose (IV, within 30 min), followed by 100 mg once daily for 5 to 10 days ○ <u>Pediatric dosing</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <40 kg: 5 mg/kg IV load, then 2.5 mg/kg q24h for 5 to 10 days - ≥40 kg: 200 mg IV load, then 100 mg IV q24h for 5 to 10 days <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider Favipiravir <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Adult Dosing:</u> 1800 mg/dose twice a day on the first day; followed by 800 mg/dose twice a day for -14 days 	<p>Use of triple therapy has not been evaluated in critically ill patients.</p> <p>Remdesivir (non-formulary and non-SFDA registered) see below table "Medication Related Information"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exclusion criteria evidence of multiorgan failure, need of inotropes, Creatinine clearance < 30 ml/min, dialysis/hemofiltration, transaminases > 5X ULN, or concomitant use of lopinavir/ritonavir <p>Favipiravir (non-formulary and non-SFDA registered) see below table "Medication Related Information"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contraindicated in pregnancy

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PCR Confirmed Cases			<p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Methylprednisolone sodium succinate (IV): 0.8 mg/kg once daily (max: 32 mg) <p>If cytokine release syndrome is suspected or confirmed, consider tocilizumab</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Adult Dosing: Single dose 4 – 8 mg/kg (usual dose 400 mg; maximum 800 mg) by IV infusion; repeated within 12 hours for maximum of 2 doses o Pediatric Dosing (<18 years): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <30 kg: 12 mg/kg repeated within 12 hours for maximum of 2 doses - ≥30 kg: 8 mg/kg (max: 800 mg/dose) repeated within 12 hours for maximum of 2 dose 	

NOTES:

(Lopinavir/ritonavir, ribavirin, interferon beta 1b and tocilizumab are registered medications in Saudi Arabia and available in MoH formulary for other indications but have not shown proven efficacy in many randomized clinical trials as of yet and their use in this setting is considered off-label. Remdesivir and favipiravir are not currently registered medications by SFDA.

Pregnancy and Lactation: Management of infection with SARS-COV2 in pregnancy is mainly based on supportive care. Consideration of antiviral therapy should be based on patient condition, safety profile and preference of the patient and treating team. Refer to the MoH COVID-19 guidance in pregnancy

Convalescent Plasma transfusion is available as part of a clinical trial for the following critically ill patients: ≥ 18 years old, confirmed COVID-19 PCR, requiring ICU care or severe or immediately life-threatening care (see severe and critical symptoms above). To enroll your patient, please visit <https://plasmaforCOVID.com/>

Thromboprophylaxis:

Recommendations

- All admitted patients should be evaluated upon admission, and daily thereafter for both thrombotic and bleeding risk.
- Laboratory evaluation and monitoring: Baseline CBC, fibrinogen, PT, aPTT, D-dimer on admission, and serially.
- Baseline or surveillance imaging are not recommended in the absence of clinical symptoms of VTE
- Patients on chronic VTE prophylaxis should continue as planned before.
- Warfarin, DOAC and antiplatelet medications are not recommended to be used as prophylaxis
- For patients whom anticoagulant therapy is contraindicated, mechanical thromboprophylaxis, preferably with intermittent pneumatic compression devices, should be utilized, although there is limited evidence of efficacy in hospitalized medically ill patients
- Thromboprophylaxis should continue until the time of discharge or the patient becomes asymptomatic.

When to consult hematologist:

- Heparin induced thrombocytopenia (HIT)
- Platelets below $50 \times 10^9/L$
- Unexplained bleeding
- Inherited bleeding disorder (Hemophilia, thrombasthenia)
- Inherited red blood disorder (sickle cell disease)
- Previously on anticoagulation therapy
- Radiological evidence of thrombosis

Adults:

Thromboprophylaxis with low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) should be considered in ALL patients (including non-critically ill) who require hospital admission for COVID-19 infection, in the absence of any contraindications (active bleeding and platelet count less than $25 \times 10^9/L$; monitoring is advised in severe renal impairment; abnormal PT or APTT is not a contraindication)

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			D-Dimer (mcg/mL)	Weight (Kg)	LMWH																			
			< 1	< 100 100-150 >150	Enoxaparin 40 mg daily Enoxaparin 40 mg twice daily Enoxaparin 60 mg twice daily																			
			> 1	< 100 100-150 >150	Enoxaparin 40 mg twice daily Enoxaparin 80 mg twice daily Enoxaparin 120 mg twice daily																			
<p>All doses may need adjustment based on renal function. In the absence of bleeding, coagulopathy is not a contraindication to anticoagulation with heparin/LMWH unless platelets fall below 30 for prophylaxis or below 50 for therapeutic heparin/LMWH.</p> <p>Patients with Heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT), please follow HIT standard institutional protocol for alternative anticoagulation.</p> <p><u>Pediatrics:</u></p> <p><u>Recommended anticoagulant prophylaxis:</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Patient category</th> <th>Age ≤ 2 months</th> <th>Age >2 months & weight ≤ 60 kg</th> <th>Age > 2 months & weight > 60 kg</th> <th>Other VTE risk factors</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Severely ill with severe respiratory symptoms</td> <td>Enoxaparin: 0.75 mg/kg/dose q12 h</td> <td>Enoxaparin 0.5 mg/kg SC every 12 hours (max 60 mg/day)</td> <td>Enoxaparin 40 mg SC every 24 hours</td> <td rowspan="3"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Altered Mobility - Active cancer (receiving chemotherapy/radiation in previous 6 months) - Burns: > 50% total body surface area - Severe dehydration - Severe systemic infection - Inflammatory disorders - Known acquired or inherited thrombophilia - Obesity (BMI ≥ 95 percentile) - Protein losing disorders - Sickle Cell Disease - Previous history of clots (DVT/PE) - Family history of VTE in 1st degree relative < 40 years old </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Severely ill with clinical deterioration, or high risk of VTE (rising DIC score or D-dimer)</td> <td>Enoxaparin: 1.5 mg/kg/dose q12 h</td> <td>Enoxaparin 1 mg/kg SC every 12 hours (max 60 mg/day)</td> <td>Enoxaparin 40 mg SC every 12 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mild symptomatic plus 1- in PICU AND CVC + ONE risk VTE factor 2- in PICU OR CVC + TWO risk VTE factor 3- THREE risk VTE factor</td> <td>Enoxaparin: 0.75 mg/kg/dose q12 h</td> <td>Enoxaparin 0.5 mg/kg SC every 12 hours (max 60 mg/day)</td> <td>Enoxaparin 40 mg SC every 24 hours</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Patients with radiological evidence of VTE or arterial thrombosis (PE, stroke, others) should be treated as per institutional VTE guideline. (Consult hematologist)</p> <p>Enoxaparin monitoring Routine anti-Xa levels are not recommended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If an anti-Xa level is deemed necessary, it should be drawn 4-6 hours after enoxaparin administration with an anti-Xa goal of 0.2- 0.4 units/mL for prophylaxis and 0.5-1 Units/ml for therapeutic dose. - Consider re-checking anti-Xa if the patient experiences active bleeding or has evidence of renal dysfunction while on enoxaparin therapy <p>Contraindications to Anticoagulation (Bleeding Risk Factors) Intracranial hemorrhage, Brain ischemia/acute stroke, Ongoing and uncontrolled bleeding /hematoma, Congenital bleeding disorder Uncorrected coagulopathy: INR >1.5, APTT >44 seconds, fibrinogen <100 g/dL, or platelet <50,000/microliter Consider Avoiding Anticoagulation Intracranial mass, Recent lumbar puncture / Epidural (<24 hours ago), The patient is likely to require an invasive procedure within 24 hours of starting enoxaparin, Neurosurgical procedure, Pelvic fracture within past 48 hours, Recent aspirin or antiplatelet use (<5-7 days ago), Uncontrolled hypertension</p> <p><u>Enoxaparin dose Adjustments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Renal impairment (CrCl 30 to 80 mL/min): No adjustment necessary - Renal impairment (CrCl less than 30 mL/min): reduce usual recommended dose by 50%. 							Patient category	Age ≤ 2 months	Age >2 months & weight ≤ 60 kg	Age > 2 months & weight > 60 kg	Other VTE risk factors	Severely ill with severe respiratory symptoms	Enoxaparin: 0.75 mg/kg/dose q12 h	Enoxaparin 0.5 mg/kg SC every 12 hours (max 60 mg/day)	Enoxaparin 40 mg SC every 24 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Altered Mobility - Active cancer (receiving chemotherapy/radiation in previous 6 months) - Burns: > 50% total body surface area - Severe dehydration - Severe systemic infection - Inflammatory disorders - Known acquired or inherited thrombophilia - Obesity (BMI ≥ 95 percentile) - Protein losing disorders - Sickle Cell Disease - Previous history of clots (DVT/PE) - Family history of VTE in 1st degree relative < 40 years old 	Severely ill with clinical deterioration, or high risk of VTE (rising DIC score or D-dimer)	Enoxaparin: 1.5 mg/kg/dose q12 h	Enoxaparin 1 mg/kg SC every 12 hours (max 60 mg/day)	Enoxaparin 40 mg SC every 12 hours	Mild symptomatic plus 1- in PICU AND CVC + ONE risk VTE factor 2- in PICU OR CVC + TWO risk VTE factor 3- THREE risk VTE factor	Enoxaparin: 0.75 mg/kg/dose q12 h	Enoxaparin 0.5 mg/kg SC every 12 hours (max 60 mg/day)	Enoxaparin 40 mg SC every 24 hours
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<p>Abbreviations: ARDS: Acute respiratory distress syndrome, COVID-19: Coronavirus Disease 2019, CBC: Complete Blood Count, CRP: C-Reactive Protein, IL6: Interleukin 6, LFT: Liver Function Test, PCR: Polymerase Chain Reaction, ECG: Electrocardiogram, G6PD: Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase, ACEI: Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, ARBs: Angiotensin II receptor blockers, MI: Myocardial infarction, MIS-C: Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children, CSS: Cytokine Storm Syndrome</p>				
<p>Footnotes: *Testing for SARS-COV2 virus shall be performed in accordance with published case definition by Saudi CDC guidelines. †High risk patients have one or more: 1. Elderly (age > 65 years), 2. With underlying end organ dysfunction, 3. Diabetes, 4. History of cardiovascular disease, 5. History of pulmonary disease, 6. Immunocompromised, and/or 7. Pregnancy</p>				

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Medication Related Information				
Medication	Contraindication	Major Drug Interactions	Required dose adjustment	Pregnancy
Paracetamol (acetaminophen)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hypersensitivity to acetaminophen or any component of the formulation Severe hepatic impairment or active liver disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acetaminophen may increase the levels/effects of: Busulfan; Dasatinib; Imatinib; Local Anesthetics; Mipomersen; Phenylephrine (Systemic); Prilocaine; Sodium Nitrite; SORafenib; Vitamin K Antagonists The levels/effects of Acetaminophen may be increased by: Alcohol (Ethyl); Dapsone (Topical); Dasatinib; Flucloxacillin; Isoniazid; Metyrapone; Nitric Oxide; Probenecid; SORafenib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires dose adjustment with patient with hepatic impairment <p><i>See MoH online formulary</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral paracetamol is considered safe in normal therapeutic doses for short-term use as a minor analgesic/antipyretic in pregnancy. Consider Administering IV paracetamol to a pregnant woman only if clearly needed. Carefully assess maternal benefit and fetal risk before administering IV paracetamol during labor and delivery.
Lopinavir/ritonavir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hypersensitivity to lopinavir, ritonavir, or any component of the formulation; Coadministration with drugs that are highly dependent on CYP3A for clearance or with potent CYP3A inducers Patients with renal and/or hepatic impairment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid concomitant use of Lopinavir and Ritonavir with any of the following: Acalabrutinib; Ado-Trastuzumab Emtansine; Alfuzosin; Amiodarone; Antihepaciviral Combination Products; Aprepitant; Astemizole; Asunaprevir; Avanafil; Axitinib; Barnidipine; Blonanserin; Bosutinib; Bromocriptine; Budesonide (Systemic); Cisapride; Clarithromycin; Clobetasone; Cobicistat; Cobimetinib; Conivaptan; Dabrafenib; Dapoxetine; Darunavir; Disulfiram; Domperidone; Dronedarone; Elagolix; Eletriptan; Eplerenone; Ergot Derivatives; Everolimus; Flecainide; Flibanserin; Fluticasone (Nasal); Fosamprenavir; Fosaprepitant; Fusidic Acid (Systemic); Glecaprevir and Pibrentasvir; Grazoprevir; Halofantrine; Ibrutinib; Irinotecan Products; Isavuconazonium Sulfate; Ivabradine; Lapatinib; Lefamulin; Lercanidipine; Lomitapide; Lovastatin; Lurasidone; Macitentan; Meptazinol; MetroNIDAZOLE (Systemic); Midazolam; Naloxegol; Neratinib; NiMODipine; Nisoldipine; Palbociclib; PAZOPanib; Pimozide; Propafenone; Quinidine; Quinine; Radotinib; Ranolazine; Red Yeast Rice; Regorafenib; Revfenacin; RifAMPin; Rivaroxaban; Rupatadine; Salmeterol; Silodosin; Simeprevir; Simvastatin; Sonidegib; St John's Wort; Suvorexant; Tamsulosin; Terfenadine; Ticagrelor; Tipranavir; Tolvaptan; Topotecan; Trabectedin; Triazolam; Udenafil; Ulipristal; VinCRISTine (Liposomal); Vinflunine; Vorapaxar; Voriconazole; Voxilaprevir Lopinavir and Ritonavir may increase the levels/effects of: Abemaciclib; Acalabrutinib; Ado-Trastuzumab Emtansine; Afatinib; Alfuzosin; Alitretinoin (Systemic); Almotriptan; Alosetron; Alpelisib; ALPRAZolam; Amiodarone; AmLODIPine; Antihepaciviral Combination Products; Apixaban; Aprepitant; ARIPIprazole; ARIPIprazole Lauroxil; Astemizole; Asunaprevir; AtorvaSTATin; Avanafil; Axitinib; Barnidipine; Bedaquiline; Benperidol; Benzhydrocodone; Betamethasone (Ophthalmic); Betrixaban; Bictegravir; Bilastine; Blonanserin; Bortezomib; Bosentan; Bosutinib; Brentuximab Vedotin; Brexpiprazole; Brigatinib; Brinzolamide; Bromocriptine; Budesonide (Nasal); Budesonide (Oral Inhalation); Budesonide (Systemic); Budesonide (Topical); Buprenorphine; BusPIRone; Cabazitaxel; Cabozantinib; Calcifediol; Calcium Channel Blockers (Nondihydropyridine); Cannabidiol; Cannabis; Cariprazine; Celiprolol; Ceritinib; Cilostazol; Cinacalcet; Cisapride; Cladribine; Clarithromycin; Clobetasone; Clorazepate; CloZAPine; Cobimetinib; Codeine; Colchicine; Conivaptan; Copanlisib; Corticosteroids (Orally Inhaled); Corticosteroids (Systemic); Crizotinib; Cyclophosphamide; CycloSPORINE (Systemic); CYP3A4 Substrates (High risk with Inhibitors); Dabigatran Etxilate; Dabrafenib; Daclatasvir; Dapoxetine; Darolutamide; Dasatinib; Deflazacort; Delamanid; Dexamethasone (Ophthalmic); Digoxin; Disulfiram; DOCEtaxel; Dofetilide; Domperidone; DOXOrubicin (Conventional); Dronabinol; Dronedarone; Drospirenone; Dutasteride; Duvelisib; Edoxaban; Elagolix; Eletriptan; Eliglustat; Eluxadoline; Elvitegravir; Encorafenib; Enfuvirtide; Entrectinib; Eplerenone; Erdafitinib; Ergot Derivatives; Erlotinib; Estazolam; Estrogen Derivatives; Ezopiclone; Etizolam; Everolimus; Evogliptin; Fedratinib; FentaNYL; Fesoterodine; Flecainide; Flibanserin; Fluticasone (Nasal); Fluticasone (Oral Inhalation); Fosaprepitant; Fostamatinib; Fusidic Acid (Systemic); Galantamine; Gefitinib; Gilteritinib; Glasdegib; Glecaprevir and Pibrentasvir; Grazoprevir; GuanFACINE; Halofantrine; HYDROcodone; Ibrutinib; Idelalisib; Iloperidone; Imatinib; Imidafenacin; Irinotecan Products; Isavuconazonium Sulfate; Itraconazole; Ivabradine; Ivacaftor; Ivosidenib; Ixabepilone; Ketoconazole (Systemic); Lacosamide; Lapatinib; Larotrectinib; Lefamulin; Lercanidipine; Levobupivacaine; Levomilnacipran; LinaGLIPTin; Lomitapide; Lorlatinib; Lovastatin; Lumefantrine; Lurasidone; Macitentan; Manidipine; Maraviroc; Meperidine; Meptazinol; Methadone; MethylPREDNISolone; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No dose adjustment required with patient with hepatic impairment; however, lopinavir is metabolized by the liver Requires to be avoided with patient on dialysis <p><i>See MoH online formulary</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fetal risk cannot be ruled out Avoid the oral solution of this combination product during pregnancy due to the presence of ethanol as an excipient in the solution.

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		<p>MetroNIDAZOLE (Systemic); Midazolam; Midostaurin; MIFEPRStone; Mirodenafil; Mirtazapine; Naldemedine; Nalfurafine; Naloxegol; Nefazodone; Nelfinavir; Neratinib; Nilotinib; NiMODipine; Nintedanib; Nisoldipine; Olaparib; Ospemifene; Oxybutynin; OxyCODONE; Palbociclib; Panobinostat; Parecoxib; Paricalcitol; PAZOPanib; Pexidartinib; P-glycoprotein/ABCB1 Substrates; Pimavanserin; Pimecrolimus; Pimozide; Piperazine; Polatumumab Vedotin; PONATinib; Pralutakast; Praziquantel; PrednisoLONE (Systemic); PredniSONE; Progestins (Contraceptive); Propafenone; Protease Inhibitors; Prucalopride; QT-prolonging Agents (Highest Risk); QUETiapine; QuiNIDine; QuiNINE; Radotinib; Ramelteon; Ranolazine; Reboxetine; Red Yeast Rice; Regorafenib; Repaglinide; Retapamulin; Revefenacin; Ribociclib; Rifabutin; RifAXIMin; Rilpivirine; Riociguat; Rivaroxaban; RomiDEPsin; Rosuvastatin; Rupatadine; Ruxolitinib; Salmeterol; SAXaglipitin; Sibutramine; Sildenafil; Silodosin; Simeprevir; Simvastatin; Sirolimus; Solifenacin; Sonidegib; SORAFenib; SUFentanil; SUNItinib; Suvorexant; Tacrolimus (Systemic); Tacrolimus (Topical); Tadalafil; Talazoparib; Tamsulosin; Tasimelteon; Tegaserod; Telithromycin; Temsirolimus; Tenofovir Disoproxil Fumarate; Terfenadine; Tetrahydrocannabinol; Tetrahydrocannabinol and Cannabidiol; Tezacaftor; Thiotepa; Ticagrelor; Tofacitinib; Tolterodine; Tolvaptan; Topotecan; Toremfifene; Trabectedin; TraMADol; TraZODone; Triamcinolone (Systemic); Triazolam; Tricyclic Antidepressants; Udenafil; Ulipristal; Upadacitinib; Valbenazine; Vardenafil; Velpatasvir; Vemurafenib; Venetoclax; Vilazodone; VinBLASTine; VinCRISTine; VinCRISTine (Liposomal); Vindesine; Vinflunine; Vinorelbine; Vorapaxar; Voxilaprevir; Zolpidem; Zopiclone; Zuclopenthixol</p> <p>– The levels/effects of Lopinavir and Ritonavir may be increased by: ARIPiprazole; Cat's Claw; Clarithromycin; Cobicistat; Delavirdine; Enfuvirtide; Fusicidic Acid (Systemic); Ketoconazole (Systemic); MetroNIDAZOLE (Topical); P-glycoprotein/ABCB1 Inhibitors; Posaconazole; QuiNINE; Rifabutin; RifAMPin; Simeprevir; Vilanterol</p>		
Hydroxychloroquine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known hypersensitivity to hydroxychloroquine, 4-aminoquinoline derivatives, or any component of the formulation. Preexisting retinopathy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid concomitant use: Artemether; Lumefantrine; Mefloquine Hydroxychloroquine may increase the levels/effects of: Antipsychotic Agents (Phenothiazines); Beta-Blockers; Cardiac Glycosides; Dapsone (Systemic); Dapsone (Topical); Haloperidol; Hypoglycemia-Associated Agents; Lumefantrine; Mefloquine; QT-prolonging Agents (Highest Risk) The levels/effects of Hydroxychloroquine may be increased by: Androgens; Antidiabetic Agents; Artemether; Dapsone (Systemic); Herbs (Hypoglycemic Properties); Maitake; Mefloquine; Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors; Pegvisomant; Prothionamide; Quinolones; Salicylates; Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors; Tamoxifen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No dose adjustment required with patient with hepatic nor renal impairment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fetal risk cannot be ruled out. Fetal ocular toxicity has been reported. Hydroxychloroquine use should be avoided during pregnancy, unless absolutely indicated and only after assessing maternal benefit and fetal risk.
Chloroquine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hypersensitivity to chloroquine, 4-aminoquinoline compounds, or any component of the formulation The presence of retinal or visual field changes of any etiology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid concomitant use of Chloroquine with any of the following: Agalsidase Alfa; Agalsidase Beta; Artemether; Conivaptan; Fusicidic Acid (Systemic); Idelalisib; Lumefantrine; Mefloquine; Pimozide; QT-prolonging Strong CYP3A4 Inhibitors (Moderate Risk) Chloroquine may increase the levels/effects of: Antipsychotic Agents (Phenothiazines); Beta-Blockers; Cardiac Glycosides; Dapsone (Systemic); Dapsone (Topical); Domperidone; Haloperidol; Hypoglycemia-Associated Agents; Local Anesthetics; Lumefantrine; Mefloquine; Ondansetron; Pentamidine (Systemic); Perhexiline; Prilocaine; Primaquine; QT-prolonging Antipsychotics (Moderate Risk); QT-prolonging Class IC Antiarrhythmics (Moderate Risk); QT-prolonging Quinolone Antibiotics (Moderate Risk); Sodium Nitrite The levels/effects of Chloroquine may be increased by: Abiraterone Acetate; Androgens; Antidiabetic Agents; Aprepitant; Artemether; Asunaprevir; Cimetidine; CloBAZam; Clofazimine; Conivaptan; CYP2D6 Inhibitors (Moderate); CYP2D6 Inhibitors (Strong); CYP3A4 Inhibitors (Moderate); CYP3A4 Inhibitors (Strong); Dacomitinib; Dapsone (Systemic); Duvelisib; Erdafitinib; Fosaprepitant; Fosnetupitant; Fusicidic Acid (Systemic); Herbs (Hypoglycemic Properties); Idelalisib; Imatinib; Larotrectinib; Maitake; Mefloquine; MIFEPRStone; Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors; Netupitant; Nitric Oxide; Palbociclib; Panobinostat; Peginterferon Alfa-2b; Pegvisomant; Perhexiline; Pimozide; Prothionamide; QT-prolonging Agents (Highest Risk); QT-prolonging Antidepressants (Moderate Risk); QT-prolonging Kinase Inhibitors (Moderate Risk); QT-prolonging Miscellaneous Agents (Moderate Risk); QT-prolonging Moderate CYP3A4 Inhibitors (Moderate Risk); QT-prolonging Strong CYP3A4 Inhibitors (Moderate Risk); Quinolones; Salicylates; Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors; Simeprevir; Stiripentol; Tamoxifen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires dose adjustment with patient with renal impairment See MoH online formulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fetal risk cannot be ruled out. Fetal ocular toxicity has been reported Administer chloroquine during pregnancy only if the potential maternal benefit outweighs the potential fetal risk

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Remdesivir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety and efficacy not established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid Concomitant Use: There are no known interactions where it is recommended to avoid concomitant use. Increased Effect/Toxicity: There are no known significant interactions involving an increase in effect. Decreased Effect: There are no known significant interactions involving a decrease in effect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No dose adjustment studied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not studied
Favipiravir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hematopoietic tissues such as decreased RBC production, and increases in liver function parameters Testis toxicity was also noted Teratogenic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acyclovir, Adefovir dipivoxil, Afatinib, Allopurinol, Almotriptan, Alprostadil, Ambrisentan, Aminohippuric acid, Aminophenazone, Amiodarone, Amitriptyline, Amodiaquine, Anastrozole, Antipyrine, Apalutamide, Apixaban, Atorvastatin, Avatrombopag, Avibactam, Azelastine, Baricitinib, Belinostat, Benzyl alcohol, Benzylpenicillin, Betrixaban, Bisoprolol, Bosutinib, Brentuximab vedotin, Brigatinib, Bumetanide, Buprenorphine, Cabazitaxel, Canagliflozin, Captopril, Cefaclor, Cefazolin, Cefdinir, Cefotiam, Ceftibuten, Ceftizoxime, Celecoxib, Cephalexin, Ceritinib, Cerivastatin, Chloroquine, Cholic Acid, Cidofovir, Cimetidine, Cisapride, Citrulline, Clobazam, Clomifene, Cobimetinib, Colchicine, Conjugated estrogens, Copanlisib, Crizotinib, Cyclophosphamide, Cyclosporine, Dabigatran etexilate, Zafirlukast, Zalcitabine, Zidovudine, Zopiclone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No dose adjustment studied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contraindicated
Tocilizumab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Known hypersensitivity to tocilizumab or any component of the formulation Active infections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid Concomitant Use: Anti-TNF Agents; BCG (Intravesical); Belimumab; Biologic Disease-Modifying Antirheumatic Drugs (DMARDs); Cladribine; Natalizumab; Pimecrolimus; Tacrolimus (Topical); Vaccines (Live) Increased Effect/Toxicity: Anti-TNF Agents; Biologic Disease-Modifying Antirheumatic Drugs (DMARDs); Fingolimod; Leflunomide; Natalizumab; Siponimod; Vaccines (Live) The levels/effects of Tocilizumab may be increased by: Belimumab; Cladribine; Denosumab; Ocrelizumab; Pimecrolimus; Roflumilast; Tacrolimus (Topical); Trastuzumab Tocilizumab may decrease the levels/effects of: BCG (Intravesical); Coccidioides immitis Skin Test; CYP3A4 Substrates (High risk with Inducers); Nivolumab; Pidotimod; Sipuleucel-T; Smallpox and Monkeypox Vaccine (Live); Tertomotide; Vaccines (Inactivated); Vaccines (Live) The levels/effects of Tocilizumab may be decreased by: Echinacea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires dose adjustment with patient with hepatotoxicity <p><i>See MoH online formulary</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fetal risk cannot be ruled out
Ribavirin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autoimmune hepatitis Coadministration with didanosine; symptomatic hyperlactatemia/lactic acidosis, peripheral neuropathy, pancreatitis, and fatal hepatic failure. Hemoglobinopathy (e.g., thalassemia major and sickle-cell anemia) Hypersensitivity, including serious skin reactions Pregnant women or men with pregnant wives Renal impairment (CrCl less than 50 mL/min) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid combination: Cladribine and Didanosine Consider therapy modification: Influenza Virus Vaccine, AzaTHIOprine, Zidovudine Monitor therapy: Interferons (Alfa) and Vitamin K Antagonists (eg, warfarin) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires dose adjustment <p><i>See MoH online formulary</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant teratogenic
Interferon beta-1b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> History of hypersensitivity to natural or recombinant interferon beta, albumin (human), or any component of the formulation. Documentation of allergenic cross-reactivity for interferons is limited. However, because of similarities in chemical structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid combination with Cladribine Monitor therapy with Zidovudine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No dose adjustment is required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rating Fetal risk cannot be ruled out. Available evidence is inconclusive or is inadequate for determining fetal risk when used in pregnant women or women of childbearing potential. Weigh the potential

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and/or pharmacologic actions, the possibility of cross-sensitivity cannot be ruled out with certainty. – Pregnancy, decompensated liver disease; current severe depression and/or suicidal ideation 			benefits of drug treatment against potential risks before prescribing this drug during pregnancy.
Dexamethasone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Concomitant use of more than a single dose of dexamethasone with rilpivirine – Hypersensitivity to dexamethasone or any component of the product – Systemic fungal infection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Avoid concomitant use of DexAMETHasone (Systemic) with any of the following: Aldesleukin; BCG (Intravesical); Cladribine; Conivaptan; Desmopressin; Fusidic Acid (Systemic); Idelalisib; Indium 111 Capromab Pendetide; Lapatinib; Lasmiditan; Macimorelin; Mifamurtide; MIFEPRIStone; Natalizumab; Pimecrolimus; Rilpivirine; Simeprevir; Tacrolimus (Topical); Upadacitinib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Use cautiously in the elderly at the lowest possible dose <p><i>See MoH online formulary</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pregnant or breastfeeding women, use prednisolone (Oral) or intravenous hydrocortisone instead of dexamethasone.
IVIG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hypersensitivity to IVIG or any component of the formula – Documentation of allergic cross-reactivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MMR, varicella vaccines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Use with caution in patients with Renal impairment due to risk of immune globulin-induced renal dysfunction; the rate of infusion and concentration of solution should be minimized. Discontinue if renal function deteriorates during treatment. 	
Enoxaparin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Active major bleeding – History of immune-mediated heparin-induced thrombocytopenia within the past 100 days or in presence of circulating antibodies – Hypersensitivity to benzyl alcohol (present in multi-dose formulation) – – Hypersensitivity to enoxaparin. 	<p>Avoid combination :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Vorapaxar: May enhance the adverse/toxic effect of Anticoagulants. More specifically, this combination is expected to increase the risk of bleeding. – Urokinase: May enhance the anticoagulant effect of Anticoagulants. – Rivaroxaban: Anticoagulants may enhance the anticoagulant effect of Rivaroxaban – Omacetaxine: Anticoagulants may enhance the adverse/toxic effect of Omacetaxine – MIFEPRIStone: May enhance the adverse/toxic effect of Anticoagulants. Specifically, the risk of bleeding may be increased – Hemin: May enhance the anticoagulant effect of Anticoagulants. – Edoxaban: May enhance the anticoagulant effect of Anticoagulants. – Dabigatran Etexilate: May enhance the anticoagulant effect of Anticoagulants. – Apixaban: May enhance the anticoagulant effect of Anticoagulants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Renal impairment (CrCl 30 to 80 mL/min): No adjustment necessary – Renal impairment (CrCl less than 30 mL/min): reduce usual recommended dose by 50%. 	Low molecular weight heparin (LMWH) does not cross the placenta; increased risks of fetal bleeding or teratogenic effects have not been reported (Bates 2012).

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Drug Administration in patients with Swallowing Difficulties

Drug	Formulation	Remarks
Lopinavir/ritonavir	Tablets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Manufacturer does not recommend crushing of tablets. – Exposure of lopinavir was reduced by 45% when the tablet was crushed and administered with food. – Administration through NG tube, doubling lopinavir/ritonavir to 800/200 mg twice daily when crushed could be considered (depending on drug availability) with monitoring of ECG.
	Oral solution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Administer syrup without dilution otherwise there is a risk of precipitation. – Rinse the administration feeding tube with milk (not water). – As the oral solution contains ethanol and propylene glycol, feeding tubes that are compatible with ethanol and propylene glycol, such as silicone and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) feeding tubes, can be used. – As the oral solution contains alcohol, disulfiram-like reactions may occur with disulfiram or other drugs that produce this reaction (e.g. metronidazole). – Co-administration is contraindicated with disulfiram or metronidazole due to the potential risk of toxicity from propylene glycol.
Favipiravir	Tablets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tablets can be crushed and mixed with liquid.
Chloroquine	Tablets Syrup	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – It is preferable to avoid crushing tablets, however, chloroquine tablets may be crushed and mixed with jam, honey, pasteurized yoghurt, or similar foods. – Contains propylene glycol, but no recommendations are given in the product label as to compatibility with feeding tubes.
Hydroxychloroquine	Tablets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Manufacturer does not recommend crushing of tablets, However, some sources suggest that tablets can be crushed and dispersed in water.

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