|  |
| --- |
| Remdesivir Patient Education |
| **What is remdesivir?**Remdesivir (brand name Veklury™) is a prescription medicine given through the vein that is used for the treatment of COVID-19 in adults and children 28 days of age and older and weighing at least 7 pounds (3 kg). Patients can be: * Hospitalized, or
* Not hospitalized and have mild-to-moderate COVID-19, and are more likely to have it worsen to become severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death.

**What is COVID-19?** COVID-19 is the disease caused by a virus called a coronavirus. You can get COVID-19 through close contact with another person who has the virus. COVID-19 can make some people very sick, including causing death, while other people can become just a little sick or not sick at all. Older people and people of all ages with severe, long-lasting (chronic) medical conditions like heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes, for example, seem to be more likely to be hospitalized for COVID-19. **What should I tell my healthcare provider before receiving remdesivir?** Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including: * Allergies
* Kidney or liver disease
* Pregnant or planning to become pregnant
* Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines that you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Remdesivir may interact with other medicines and may cause serious side effects.
* Especially tell your healthcare providers if you are taking the medicines chloroquine phosphate or hydroxychloroquine sulfate.

**How will I receive remdesivir?** * **Hospitalized:** Remdesivir is given through your vein (IV) one time each day usually for 5 days in a row but can be up to 10 days. Your healthcare provider will decide how many doses you need.
* **Not hospitalized:** Remdesivir is given through a vein (IV) one time each day for 3 days in a row.

Your healthcare provider will usually do certain blood tests before starting and during treatment with remdesivir. **What if I don’t want to complete all 3 doses of outpatient remdesivir treatment because I am already feeling better?**It is recommended to get all 3 doses because that has been shown to work well to fight the virus. **Who should generally not receive remdesivir?** You should not receive remdesivir if you are allergic to remdesivir or any of the ingredients in remdesivir. **What are the ingredients in remdesivir?** * **Active ingredient**: Remdesivir
* **Inactive ingredient:**
* Betadex sulfobutyl ether sodium to improve the stability and safety of remdesivir.
* May have hydrochloric acid for pH adjustment.
* May have sodium hydroxide for pH adjustment.

**What are the important possible side effects?*** **Allergic reactions**. Allergic reactions can happen during and after infusion with remdesivir. Your healthcare provider will watch for signs and symptoms of allergic reactions during the infusion and for at least 1 hour after the infusion. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following signs and symptoms of allergic reactions:
	+ Changes to heart rate
	+ Swelling of the lips, face, or throat
	+ Fever
	+ Rash
	+ Shortness of breath or wheezing
	+ Nausea
	+ Shivering
	+ Sweating
* **Increases in levels of liver enzymes.** Increases in liver enzymes are common in people who have received remdesivir and may be a sign of liver injury. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check liver enzymes before receiving remdesivir and as needed while receiving remdesivir. Your healthcare provider may stop treatment with remdesivir if there are liver problems <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/treatments-for-severe-illness.html>

These are not all of the possible side effects of remdesivir. Please see the [remdesivir package insert](https://www.gilead.com/-/media/files/pdfs/medicines/covid-19/veklury/veklury_pi.pdf) for more information.**How do I report side effects with remdesivir?** Contact your healthcare if you have any side effect that bother you or do not go away. Report side effects to [FDA MedWatch](https://www.fda.gov/safety/medical-product-safety-information/medwatch-forms-fda-safety-reporting) or call 1-800-FDA-1088.  |
|  |