

Patient Handout – Outpatient Remdesivir

- Remdesivir (rem-des-uh-veer) is an FDA-approved antiviral medication that helps treat patients with COVID-19.
- Coronavirus that causes COVID-19 spreads in the body by making copies of itself. Remdesivir interrupts the way the coronavirus copies itself.
- Remdesivir helps patients with COVID-19 recover sooner. It does not prevent COVID-19 and is not a substitute for being vaccinated.
- The most common side effect is nausea. Serious side effects may include allergic reactions and an increase in liver enzymes.

Requirements for adult patients

- Remdesivir will only be prescribed if you are not a candidate for the oral COVID therapy, Paxlovid.
- Patients must have a positive COVID test, with mild-to-moderate symptoms, and be at a high risk for progression to severe COVID-19.
- Remdesivir should be administered within 7 days of symptoms appearing.

How is remdesivir given?

- Remdesivir is given through a vein by intravenous (IV) infusion one time each day for 3 days in a row in an outpatient setting at a BJC infusion center.
- On the day of the first infusion, blood tests will be sent before the infusion is started. The infusion can be administered prior to those tests resulting.
- Patients will be monitored during the infusion and observed for at least 1 hour after the infusion.

What is the cost?

- There are costs for the drug itself, for the infusion used to deliver the drug, and for lab tests.

	Cost
Remdesivir	Up to \$7,280 Up to \$4,368 with 40% self-pay discount

- Costs will vary depending on whether the patient has insurance. We expect patients with insurance to have much less out-of-pocket costs.
- Most insurance plans will cover the cost of the infusion so patients should check with their insurance provider to see if they are covered. Medicare and Medicaid provide coverage for the cost of the infusion.
- Medicare Part B provides coverage for the drug and the infusion. In most cases the patient’s yearly Part B deductible and 20% co-insurance apply.
- Lab tests that are included with the infusion are estimated to be ~\$165 for two different tests. For those who are self-pay, the discounted cost will be ~\$100.
- Some patients with commercial insurance plans may have out-of-pocket costs for the infusion or lab tests. Check with your insurance provider.
- **Patients may call the BJC Price Estimate line for specific questions about their potential costs at 314.747.8845 or toll-free 1.844.747.8845.**