

Remdesivir (Brand Name: Veklury)

What is it used for?

- To treat mild to moderate COVID-19 in vulnerable out-patients who are 18 years or older. This includes those higher risk patients who meet eligibility criteria determined by the BCCDC.

What does it do?

- It is a broad-spectrum antiviral medication called a nucleotide analog. It binds to the viral genetic material and blocks the ability of the virus to replicate; it stops COVID-19 from spreading in your body.
- It will reduce the risk of mild to moderate COVID-19 progressing to severe infection that requires hospitalization.

How is it given?

- Once daily intravenous infusion for 3 days in a row; usually given over 30 minutes by a qualified healthcare professional at an infusion clinic in Island Health.
- Patients may be required to have certain blood tests at their first visit.

What are the possible side effects?

- Side effects of receiving a medication through a vein may include brief pain from IV insertion, bleeding, bruising of the skin, soreness, swelling, and possible infection at the insertion site.
- Remdesivir is generally well-tolerated, but allergic reactions could happen.
- Some patients have experienced nausea during or after the infusion.
- Please tell your healthcare professional if you experience any of these symptoms during the infusion: fever; chills; headache; nausea or feeling sick; difficulty breathing; chest tightness; swelling of the face, lips, or throat; rash or hives; dizziness or light headedness.

What should I do if my COVID-19 symptoms get worse?

- You will have a scheduled follow-up visit with a healthcare provider after your infusion.
- If you have any questions about COVID-19 symptoms, call **8-1-1** or your healthcare provider.
- Go to an urgent care clinic, emergency department, or call **911** if you have difficulty breathing, have chest pain, can't drink, feel very sick, feel confused, or experience any loss of consciousness.

This treatment does NOT shorten your isolation time. It is important that you continue to follow the isolation requirements given to you at the time of your positive test.