

PATIENT GUIDE ABOUT EVUSHELD

FOR PREVENTION OF ILLNESS DUE TO COVID-19



Peter Mac
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
Victoria Australia

EVUSHELD is an extra COVID-19 medication that provides added protection for vulnerable patients. This includes patients with a weakened immune system due to a medical condition or people having treatments such as bone marrow transplants or CAR T-cell therapy.

Why are you being offered EVUSHELD?

Your doctor believes you may benefit from EVUSHELD as added protection against illness due to COVID-19.

Certain medical conditions and/or treatments may weaken your immune system, reducing your ability to fight off a COVID-19 infection, even if you have been fully vaccinated.

EVUSHELD is given in addition to COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters and is not a replacement for them.

Evusheld is an extra protection but other protections still apply, such as:

- Hand hygiene
- Social distancing
- Mask wearing

What is EVUSHELD?

Evusheld is made up of two medications designed to work together against COVID-19. These medications:

- Can prevent the virus from entering human cells; and
- Reduce the chance of becoming seriously ill due to COVID-19 infection.



How long does EVUSHELD last?

Research studies have shown EVUSHELD may help reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection for at least 6 months.

Have you recently been infected with COVID-19?

If you have tested positive to COVID-19, you need to wait 30 days before having EVUSHELD.

Have you recently had your COVID-19 vaccination?

If you have recently had your COVID-19 vaccination, you need to wait at least 14 days before having EVUSHELD medication.

How is EVUSHELD given?

You will receive two injections, one in each buttock. After the injections, we will ask you to stay for 15 minutes so we can look out for any allergic reactions.

What should you know before you have EVUSHELD?

It is important you talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you have any of the following:

- A low blood platelet count that affects blood clotting
- Any blood clotting problems
- Are taking any medications (blood thinners) to prevent blood clots. For example: Rivaroxaban (Xarelto), Apixaban, Warfarin, Clexane, Aspirin
- You have had a heart attack or stroke; have other heart problems; or are at high-risk of cardiac (heart) problems
- You are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- You are breastfeeding a child
- You have severe allergies.

Are there any side effects?

Like all medicines, EVUSHELD can cause side effects. There are both common and uncommon side effects.

Common side effects

More than 50 per cent of people who have had EVUSHELD reported common side effects.

These include:

- pain and soreness at the injection site
- bruising of the skin around the injection site
- itchiness or swelling
- These symptoms usually settle over a few days.

Uncommon side effects

In less than 5 per cent of people, there is the risk of allergic reaction to EVUSHELD. This often occurs at the time of injection or just after, which is why we ask you to wait for 15 minutes so we can monitor for any signs of an allergic reaction.

Signs include:

- difficulty breathing or swallowing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat
- severe itching of the skin, with a red rash or raised bumps.

EVUSHELD and cardiac (heart) risks

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In a clinical trial studying Evusheld, it was reported people who had known cardiac risks, including history of heart attack, had a higher risk of experiencing a cardiac issue after receiving EVUSHELD. It is not known if this was related to the EVUSHELD or to the person's pre-existing cardiac conditions. This is still being studied and if you would like more information please speak to your treating doctor, GP, Nurse Consultant or visit the TGA website at:

www.tga.gov.au/sites/default/files/evusheld-pi.pdf



If you have any questions or concerns about EVUSHELD, you can contact your Nurse Consultant Monday to Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm

For after-hours, please call (03) 8559 5000 and ask to speak to the 'Registrar On Call'

If you experience chest pain, breathlessness or any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction after EVUSHELD, you should seek urgent medical attention.

In the event of an emergency, please dial 000 for an ambulance or go to your nearest hospital emergency department.