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| Pre-exposure prophylaxis for COVID-19: EvusheldTM (tixagevimab and cilgavimab)  Patient fact sheet |
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This document contains information about the medicine tixagevimab and cilgavimab, available as the brand name EvusheldTM. This health information is for general education purposes only. Please consult with your doctor or other health professional to make sure this information is right for you.

#### What is the potential benefit of EvusheldTM in protecting you against COVID-19?

Vaccination is the best protection against COVID-19, but some people cannot receive vaccines or are less likely to be protected by them. For example, people with medical conditions like cancer or severe autoimmune diseases will not respond as well to vaccination.

EvusheldTM is a combination of two medications, tixagevimab and cilgavimab. It works by blocking the COVID-19 virus from entering your body and multiplying. It is used for ‘pre-exposure prophylaxis’ against COVID-19. This means it is given to people who are currently well and do not have COVID-19 but are at higher risk of getting it and experiencing severe disease or complications. Studies have found that when at-risk people took EvusheldTM, it provided them with at least six months of protection against COVID-19.

EvusheldTM is not a replacement for vaccination if you are able to receive one. Infection prevention measures such as hand hygiene, social distancing and mask wearing where appropriate should still be taken despite receiving EvusheldTM to ensure you remain protected against COVID-19.

#### What should be considered when using EvusheldTM as pre-exposure prophylaxis (prevention) against COVID-19?

In Australia, EvusheldTM has provisional (temporary) approval for use as pre-exposure prophylaxis (prevention) against COVID-19. Short-term research shows it is safe to use. Long-term research on safety is still being collected. It is important that you understand when and why EvusheldTM may be useful. Your doctor will provide more information about how well it works and how safe it is for your circumstances.

As this is a new treatment for COVID-19, you should talk to your doctor if you have any questions or worries before receiving EvusheldTM.

#### What should your doctor know before EvusheldTM is used as pre-exposure prophylaxis (prevention) against COVID-19?

It is important for your doctor to know your medical history before giving you EvusheldTM.

They may ask about:

* What other medications you are taking
* Any past allergic reactions to medicines
* Any bleeding or blood clotting conditions you may have, if you have a low number of platelets (‘thrombocytopenia’) or are taking a blood thinning medicine (to prevent blood clots)
* Any past or current history of heart problems, if you have had a heart attack or stroke or are at a high risk of cardiac (heart) events
* If you may be pregnant, breastfeeding or are planning to have a baby soon
* Whether you’ve had COVID-19 before
* When you had your last COVID-19 vaccination

#### How is EvusheldTM given?

EvusheldTM is given as two injections, one tixagevimab and one cilgavimab. It is delivered intramuscularly (into muscles) by a doctor or nurse, similar to other injections you may have had before. You will likely be monitored after the injections for at least 15 minutes to confirm you do not have a bad reaction to the medication.

#### What are the side effects of EvusheldTM?

You may not get any side effects when receiving EvusheldTM.

The most common side effects reported by patients are listed below:

* Headache
* Fatigue (tiredness)
* Cough
* Pain, redness, itching or hardening of the injection site
* Rash and urticaria (red, itchy welts) at the injection site or elsewhere on the body

There is also a chance you may get unknown or rare side effects. There has been a very small number of people who received EvusheldTM  who experienced serious adverse events (including heart problems). It is unclear at this time whether this was linked to the medication or their underlying medical history.

This is not a complete list of side effects. The [Consumer Medicine Information](https://www.tga.gov.au/sites/default/files/evusheld-cmi.pdf) fact sheet has a full list of side effects <https://www.tga.gov.au/sites/default/files/evusheld-cmi.pdf>.

Alternatively, your doctor, pharmacist or nurse can speak with you about this. If you experience a side effect and are concerned, let your doctor know. You can also report side effects to the [Therapeutic Goods Administration](https://www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems) <https://www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems>.

You should seek urgent medical attention if you experience any of the following symptoms: pain, pressure, or discomfort in the chest, arms, neck, back, stomach, legs or jaw, abdominal pain, shortness of breath, faster than normal heartbeat, feeling tired or weak (fatigue), feeling sick (nausea), swelling in your ankles or lower legs, coughing up blood, difficulties speaking or confusion, loss of movement or weakness on one side of the body or face, severe headache.

#### Are there special precautions with EvusheldTM treatment?

EvusheldTM may interact with some other medicines. It is important to tell the healthcare team looking after you about all medications you normally take or have recently taken so any interactions can be checked. This includes prescription drugs, vitamins, herbal or naturopathic medicines and recreational drugs.

There is limited research on the impact of EvusheldTM on pregnancy and breastfeeding. The decision about whether to use EvusheldTM in pregnancy or while breastfeeding should be made after discussion with your doctor about potential risks and benefits.

There are timing considerations between having a COVID-19 vaccination or having a COVID-19 infection and receiving EvusheldTM. Your doctor will talk through the best timing for you.

EvusheldTM is not recommended at this time for people who are less than 12 years old or who weigh less than 40 kg.

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Available at: health.vic.gov.au – Medications for patients with COVID-19 <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/covid-19/vaccines-and-medications-in-patients-with-covid-19>