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Worldâ??s first generic version of COVID-19 oral drug â??PAXLOVIDâ?? receives WHO Prequalification

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With the launch of NIRMACOM, Hetero aims to expand access of the ground-breaking antiviral in 95 LMICs including India



Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company Hetero has announced the receipt of World Health Organisation Prequalification of Medicines Programme (WHO PQ) approval for its generic version of COVID-19 oral antiviral treatment candidate nirmatrelvir.

This is the first prequalification for a generic version of Pfizer's COVID-19 oral antiviral drug 'PAXLOVID', which the WHO called, the best therapeutic choice for high-risk patients to date.

WHO made a strong recommendation for nirmatrelvir and ritonavir for mild and moderate COVID-19 patients at highest risk of hospital admission, such as unvaccinated, aged, or immunosuppressed patients.

The combi pack, launched by Hetero as *NIRMACOM,* will contain nirmatrelvir 150 mg (2 tablets) and ritonavir 100mg (1 tablet). It is available by prescription only and should be initiated as soon as possible after diagnosis of COVID-19 and within five days of symptom onset. *NIRMACOM* will be manufactured at Hetero's facilities in India.

Hetero entered into a non-exclusive voluntary licensing agreement with Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) for manufacturing and sale of a generic version of Pfizer's COVID-19 oral antiviral treatment candidate nirmatrelvir, which is co-packaged with ritonavir (nirmatrelvir; ritonavir), in low and middle income countries (LMICs).