

This leaflet contains important information for patients, family and carers about the medicine tixagevimab and cilgavimab (available as the brand Evusheld®) injection when used to treat or prevent COVID-19.

What is Evusheld?

Evusheld is a medicine that treats and prevents COVID-19. It works by blocking the COVID-19 virus from entering your body and multiplying.

Who should take Evusheld?

For prevention

Evusheld can be used to prevent COVID-19 in both adults and adolescents of 12 years or older who weigh at least 40 kg.

- It is given to people who are currently well but at higher risk than others of catching COVID-19.
- From credible studies, we know that when people at higher risk of catching COVID-19 took Evusheld, it provided them with at least 6 months of protection from getting sick from the virus.

For treatment

Evusheld can also be used as a **treatment** for COVID-19 positive people who have a higher risk of their COVID-19 infection getting worse.

- From credible studies, we know that taking Evusheld within **7 days** of symptoms first occurring reduces the chances of becoming very sick with COVID-19, needing to go to hospital for treatment and the chances of dying.

Is it safe to use Evusheld?

In Australia, Evusheld is a new medicine and has temporary approval for use. Long-term data is still being collected however short-term data shows it is safe to use. It is important you have a good understanding of when and why Evusheld is recommended for you. Don't hesitate to ask your doctor any questions you may have. Your doctor will provide more information about how Evusheld works and how safe it is for you. It is important to feel comfortable with the answers before giving your permission to use Evusheld. You can always change your mind and take back permission at any time.

Viruses can change over time and develop into slightly different forms (variants). Evusheld may not work at preventing infection caused by all forms (variants) of the virus. If you are exposed to certain forms (variants), your chance of being infected may be higher.

Use with other medicines – Evusheld 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. This includes prescription drugs, vitamins, herbal or naturopathic medicines. Your doctor or pharmacist will check if Evusheld is safe for you.

Is it safe to use Evusheld when I'm pregnant or breastfeeding?

- It is important to speak with your doctor about the risks and benefits of receiving Evusheld so that you are comfortable with your decision to use Evusheld during your pregnancy.
- There have not been enough studies done to know whether Evusheld passes into breast milk. We also don't know the impact of Evusheld on your baby if you are breastfeeding. If receiving Evusheld, breastfeeding should be stopped temporarily. Your Doctor will tell you when it is safe to start breastfeeding again.
- Because Evusheld is a new medicine, new evidence may come out about how safe it is to use. Speak with your doctor or pharmacist for the most recent advice to see if Evusheld is safe for you when you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Is taking Evusheld the same as getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

No – Evusheld is *not* a replacement for vaccination. **Vaccination is still the most important way to protect yourself from getting COVID-19.**

Some people cannot take vaccines or are less likely to be protected by them, so they may benefit from Evusheld. For example, people with medical conditions like cancer or severe autoimmune diseases will not respond as well to vaccination.

What should I speak with my doctor about before deciding if Evusheld is right for me?

It is important to decide together with your doctor if taking Evusheld is a good option for you. You should let your doctor know about:

- any past allergic reactions to medicines
- any bleeding or blood clotting disorders you may have, if you have a low number of platelets or are taking a blood thinning medicine (to prevent blood clots)
- any past or current history of heart problems, have had a heart attack or stroke or are at a high risk of cardiac events
- if you may be pregnant, breastfeeding or are planning to have a baby soon
- all medicines you take, including prescription drugs, vitamins, herbal or naturopathic medicines.

How is Evusheld given?

- Evusheld is given via two injections into separate muscles (one into each buttock) by a doctor or nurse.
- You will be monitored for 15 minutes after the injections to confirm that you do not have a bad reaction to the medication.
- If you are using Evusheld for prevention, you may require a repeat dose every 6 months. Talk to your doctor for more information.

Does Evusheld have side effects?

You may have some or no side effects. Some of the most common side effects reported by patients are:

- headache
- tiredness
- cough
- pain, redness, itching or hardening of the injection site; and/or
- rash and red, itchy welts at the injection site or elsewhere on the body.

Please note that this is not a complete list of side effects. The [Consumer Medicine Information](#) factsheet has a full list, or your doctor, pharmacist or nurse can speak with you about this. Side effects can be reported to your doctor and you can also report them to the [Therapeutic Goods Administration](#).

You should let your doctor know immediately or go straight to the local Emergency Department 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, feeling sick, 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 or severe headache.

If you are experiencing any side effects, including any of the ones listed above or are feeling unwell, please call the healthcare worker on the phone number below for advice.

Name of healthcare worker to call: _____ Telephone number: _____

Where can I find more information?

You can find more information on the Australian [Consumer Medicines Information](#) factsheet.