Patients should never be charged for Paxlovid or Lagevrio (molnupiravir). All providers administering or supplying COVID-19 therapeutics distributed through the federal government signed an agreement to not charge patients for drug costs. The agreement specifically reads:

“Provider agrees to:

• Not charge patients for drug costs. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is making COVID-19 therapeutics available at no cost to authorized providers...

• Dispense COVID-19 therapeutics regardless of the therapeutic recipient’s coverage status or ability to pay for COVID-19 therapeutics dispensing fees. Provider may seek appropriate reimbursement from a program or plan that covers COVID-19 therapeutics dispensing fees for the therapeutics recipient. Costs should not be a barrier to patient access for these medications.”

If you or someone you know is asked to pay for Paxlovid or Lagevrio (molnupiravir), please report this using the COVID-19 Therapeutics Reporting Form at go.cdph.ca.gov/covidpharmacyreporting, so that CDPH may follow up with the pharmacy.

Please note patients may still be charged for other medications such as cough medicine, decongestants, fever-reducers like Tylenol and Motrin, etc. This only applies to COVID-19 prescription medications – Paxlovid and Lagevrio (molnupiravir).