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China gives conditional approval to Pfizer's oral COVID-19 drug

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PAXLOVID has been found to reduce the risk of hospitalization or death by 89% compared to placebo in non-hospitalized high-risk adults with COVID-19

China's drug regulator National Medical Products Administration (NMPA) has granted conditional approval for the imports of Pfizer's Paxlovid COVID-19 pill.

The pill is a small-molecule oral drug, a co-package of antiviral drugs nirmatrelvir tablets and ritonavir tablets, for adults who are experiencing mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms and who are at a higher risk of becoming more seriously ill, according to the National Medical Products Administration.

It can be given to patients who, for instance, are in old age or have chronic renal diseases, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and chronic lung diseases.

Patients should take the medicine as prescribed by the doctors and pay close attention to drug interactions, according to the administration.

The administration has asked the drug's marketing authorization holder to continue its relevant research work, fulfill the conditions within the specified time and submit the following research results timely.