

Mexico authorizes remdesivir to treat COVID

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Mexico on Friday approved the anti-viral drug remdesivir for emergency use treating COVID-19 patients in the Latin American country, one of the worst hit by the pandemic.

Regulatory agency Cofepris said it had authorized the medicine for use exclusively by hospitals and specialist doctors during the early stages of

the illness.

Mexico joins other countries including the United States, Canada and Japan, as well as the European Commission, that have approved the treatment for use against the [coronavirus](#).

Remdesivir, made by US pharma giant Gilead, was one of the first drugs to show relative promise in shortening the time to recovery in some COVID-19 patients.

But its efficacy in reducing the mortality rate is unproven.

A World Health Organization-backed study said in October that the [drug](#) had "little or no effect" on COVID mortality.

Mexico, a country of 126 million people, has recorded more than 193,000 known COVID-19 deaths—the world's third-highest toll.

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