



KHAIRY

Pfizer's Paxlovid to arrive in two weeks

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia is expected to receiving its first shipment of the COVID-19 oral antiviral treatment, Paxlovid by Pfizer, in two weeks, said Health Minister Khairy Jamaluddin.

He said for the first phase of the procurement, Malaysia had purchased 110,000 patient-courses (for 110,000 patients) to be given to high-risk individuals.

"If we find the use of the drug as effective as (stated in) the information we have received, we will increase the purchase of the drug, Paxlovid from Pfizer.

"There are two more (drugs) that we will buy (namely) Molnupiravir, and another is from AstraZeneca, but it has not been finalised," he told reporters after launching the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) 16th Annual Dialysis Conference here yesterday.

Meanwhile, in his speech earlier, Khairy suggested a new feature in the MySejahtera application which allows the public to pledge to become organ donors.

He said the move was necessary with the increase in chronic kidney disease patients in the country, while the number of individuals who pledged to be organ donors was declining.

In fact, Malaysia is among the countries with the lowest organ donors, he added.

"I am going to do my best to push for pledges and make it easier for people to pledge their organs ... I'm trying to get the MySejahtera to be added with a button so you can just press the button and pledge to be donor organs," he said. – BERNAMA