

Monoclonal Antibody Treatment: Frequently Asked Questions

Antibodies are proteins that people's bodies make to fight viruses, such as the virus that causes COVID-19. Antibodies made in a laboratory act a lot like natural antibodies to limit the amount of virus in your body. They are called monoclonal antibodies.

Monoclonal antibody treatment with bamlanivimab or with casirivimab and imdevimab are for people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and have mild to moderate symptoms that started no more than 10 days ago. This treatment is designed to be used prior to someone becoming ill enough with COVID-19 to require hospitalization. Casirivimab and imdevimab must be given together. Bamlanivimab is given alone. These treatments are allowed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) while clinical studies continue to look at their usefulness and safety.

Who can get the antibody treatment?	
Patient Inclusion Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Individuals 16 years old or older ● Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 (PCR or Antigen) ● Symptomatic, with no more than 7 days from symptom onset ● Utah COVID-19 Risk Score greater than 5.5 (this cutoff will be adjusted based on additional supply of medication from the Federal Government, check with medical provider if questions) OR a resident of a skilled nursing facility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Utah COVID-19 Risk Score Calculator ● NO NEW hypoxemia (in need of new or increased supplemental oxygen and/or and oxygen level at rest of less than 90% [SpO2<90%]) ● NOT being admitted or already admitted to an acute care hospital ● NOT pregnant (inadequate safety data).
Pediatric Inclusion Criteria (must meet ALL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Between 12 and 15 years of age ● At least 88 pounds (40kg) ● Laboratory confirmed COVID-19 (PCR or Antigen) ● Symptomatic, with no more than 7 days from symptom onset ● NOT hospitalized ● NOT pregnant ● Has a B-cell immunodeficiency [primary or acquired (e.g., rituximab therapy, certain types of cancer treatment that are B-cell depleting therapies)].
Does antibody treatment work?	
<p>Clinical trials for bamlanivimab and for casirivimab/imdevimab have shown a decrease in hospitalizations and emergency room visits and a decrease in the amount of virus in an infected person's blood. Studies are still ongoing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New England Journal of Medicine: SARS-CoV-2 Neutralizing Antibody LY-CoV555 in Outpatients with Covid-19 ● Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA Authorizes Monoclonal Antibodies for Treatment of COVID-19 	



What are the side effects of the antibody treatment?

The most common reported side effects with bamlanivimab are nausea, diarrhea, dizziness, headache, itchiness, and vomiting. The most common reported side effects with casirivimab/imdevimab are nausea and vomiting, hyperglycemia, and pneumonia. The side effects of getting any medicine by vein may include brief pain, bleeding, bruising of the skin, soreness, swelling, and possible infection at the infusion site.

In clinical trials of bamlanivimab and casirivimab/imdevimab involving nearly 3,000 people, two severe allergic reactions and five serious reactions related to the delivery of the treatment into the vein were reported. All reactions were treated and resolved.

Please review the fact sheets here prior to receiving the treatment, if you have questions you should speak with your healthcare provider.

- [Fact Sheet for Patients, Parents and Caregivers Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) of Bamlanivimab for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [Fact Sheet for Patients, Parents and Caregivers Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) of Casirivimab and Imdevimab for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(PDF\)](#)

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I receive the antibody treatment?

- All of your medical conditions
- If you have any allergies
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- Are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed
- Have any serious illnesses
- Are taking any medications (prescription, over-the-counter, vitamins, and herbal products)

How will I receive the antibody treatment?

Casirivimab and Imdevimab	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Casirivimab and imdevimab are two investigational medicines given together as a single intravenous infusion (through a vein) for at least 1 hour.● You will receive one dose of casirivimab and imdevimab by intravenous infusion.
Bamlanivimab	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bamlanivimab is given to you through a vein (intravenous or IV) for at least 1 hour.● You will receive one dose of bamlanivimab by IV infusion.

Will insurance cover antibody treatment?

The federal government is currently distributing monoclonal antibodies treatments at no cost for patients. However, depending on where you receive treatment, there may be some associated costs for administering the treatment. If you have insurance, these costs may be covered. If you do not have insurance, ask the treatment facility if there will be costs associated with receiving the treatment. More information on insurance coverage of antibody treatments can be found at [CMS: Coverage of Monoclonal Antibody Products to Treat COVID-19 \(PDF\)](#)

Where can I get it?

The Utah Department of Health has included a list of participating providers on the coronavirus.utah.gov website. This list can be found, along with additional information here <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/noveltherapeutics/>

Utah Department of Health Contact Information for Long Term Care Facilities

Please contact your assigned Utah Department of Health Healthcare Associated Infections Infection Preventionist, or if you are unsure who your Infection Preventionist is, please email HAI@utah.gov.

