

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON

Lieutenant Governor

## **Utah Department of Health Executive Director's Office**

Nate Checketts, M.P.A. *Interim Executive Director* 

Heather R. Borski, M.P.H., M.C.H.E.S. *Deputy Director* 

 $\label{eq:Michelle G. Hofmann M.D., M.P.H., M.H.C.D.S., F.A.A.P.} \begin{picture}(t) Deputy Director (a) The property of the$ 

10/7/2021

Dear Provider,

Since November 2020, Utah providers have administered approximately 7,100 monoclonal antibody infusions (mAb), preventing an estimated 900 hospitalizations. However, our state's current mAb capacity exceeds the number of patient referrals being received for this treatment. I am writing to ask for your help referring patients who may benefit from this life-saving treatment.

Patients who benefit most from mAb treatment are those most likely to be hospitalized or die from COVID-19. These patients are typically older or have complex underlying medical conditions. Patients who qualify for mAb must:

- Test positive for SARS-CoV-2.
- Currently have symptoms of COVID-19.
- Be within the first 7 days of symptom onset.
- Be at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 due to things like age and underlying medical conditions.

I invite you to familiarize yourself with Utah's Monoclonal Antibody Allocation Guidelines for mAb treatment and refer patients who are eligible to receive treatment. mAb treatments are effective at keeping some people out of the hospital if administered early enough. Patients with COVID-19 who are already sick enough to be admitted into the hospital typically do not benefit from treatment. It's imperative that we, as providers, help our patients understand the importance of seeking testing for COVID-19 immediately after symptoms begin so they have the best chance at avoiding potentially life-threatening illness and hospital stays.

The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) has launched an online Utah COVID-19 risk score calculator to determine patients who would benefit and qualify for mAb treatment. After completing a survey, the patient is told whether they qualify for treatment and how to schedule an appointment at the nearest infusion site. More than 20,000 patient cases were used to make sure the risk calculator could accurately predict which patients would benefit the most from this treatment. This tool, a list of mAb treatment locations, and other relevant provider information can be found at <a href="https://coronavirus.utah.gov/noveltherapeutics/#for-medical-providers">https://coronavirus.utah.gov/noveltherapeutics/#for-medical-providers</a>.

The UDOH recently opened its own Monoclonal Antibody Infusion Center in Murray on the campus of the Intermountain Healthcare Employee Services Center (5245 College Drive, Murray, UT 84123). Treatment provided at the UDOH infusion center is free; no insurance will be billed. Up to 50 patients per day can be treated at this site. The UDOH is currently exploring a coordinated scheduling model with other treatment locations to ensure more timely access to mAb treatment for more Utahns.





SPENCER J. COX Governor

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Please complete the following steps to refer a patient to the UDOH Monoclonal Antibody Infusion Center:

- 1. Screen prospective patients aged 16 and older to ensure they meet inclusion criteria. Inclusion criteria are based on current emergency use authorizations and the Utah COVID-19 Risk Score Calculator. The inclusion criteria and risk score calculator can be found at <a href="https://coronavirus.utah.gov/noveltherapeutics">https://coronavirus.utah.gov/noveltherapeutics</a>.
- 2. Explain the benefits and risks of treatment and confirm the patient's desire to be treated.
- 3. Email the patient's name and contact information to <a href="mailto:mabinfusions@utah.gov">mabinfusions@utah.gov</a> using an encrypted email.
- 4. If you are contacted by a patient you think may be eligible for mAb treatment and are unable to complete a provider referral within the 7-day eligibility window, please direct the patient to <a href="https://coronavirus.utah.gov/noveltherapeutics">https://coronavirus.utah.gov/noveltherapeutics</a>. Patients who complete the risk score calculator survey and are eligible for treatment will be provided contact information for a 24/7 hotline that can help schedule the patient for mAb treatment at the UDOH infusion center
- 5. All questions regarding infusions for children aged 12-15 years should be emailed to Pediatric.MonoclonalAntibodies@imail.org.

Once our team receives your email referral, they will reach out to the patient to get the infusion scheduled and respond to your email with the outcome of the referral. For questions, or to speak to one of our staff, please call 801-608-8547. The email address and phone number provided here are for providers only and should not be given to the public. We want to ensure we have the capacity to respond in a timely manner to all provider referrals.

Thank you for all you do in protecting Utahns during this challenging time. We look forward to serving your patients.

Kindest regards,

Michelle Hofmann, MD, MPH, MHCDS

Deputy Director, Utah Department of Health

