



**MICHIGAN MEDICINE**  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

# What is Monoclonal Antibody Treatment?

(For COVID-19 Positive Children and Adults After  
Emergency Department Discharge)

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## Is there a treatment available for people with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are not in the hospital?

Yes, monoclonal antibody therapy may be a treatment option for some people who are:

- At home
- Early in their illness
- At high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19

## What is monoclonal antibody therapy for COVID?

Monoclonal antibodies have been made in a lab to mimic and boost the body's natural immune system response to COVID. Some products have been granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

**Monoclonal antibodies** are similar to the antibodies that are naturally made by the immune system in response to an infection, except monoclonal antibodies are made in a lab so that they only bind to one substance. They work to fight SARS-COV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) by binding to it and preventing it from infecting human cells.

### **Antibody:**

A protein made by **plasma cells** (a type of white blood cell) in response to an **antigen** (a substance that causes the body to make a specific immune response). Each antibody can bind to only one specific antigen to help destroy the antigen.

## How can I get access to monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID?

People with a positive COVID result who may benefit from treatment are checked for eligibility at Michigan Medicine. We will call you to discuss the potential treatment if you meet the criteria in the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA).

## Who is eligible for treatment with monoclonal antibodies?

You will receive a phone call from a monoclonal antibody-trained pharmacist at Michigan Medicine if it's possible that you are eligible. They will ask you some screening questions and tell you about the treatment. The criteria to determine if you are eligible include the severity of illness, duration of illness, and your specific risk factors. We currently recommend treatment for people with mild to moderate COVID-19 who fit the following criteria required by the FDA EUA:

<b>Everything in this column is required as well as the columns to the right (depending on age):</b>	Children <b>12-17 years old</b> who weigh <b>40 kg (88lb) or more</b> and have <b>one</b> of the following high-risk criteria for potential to progress to severe disease:	Adults <b>18 or older</b> who weigh <b>40 kg (88lb) or more</b> and have <b>one</b> of the following high-risk criteria for potential to progress to severe disease:
1) Outpatient (discharged home) 2) No need for oxygen support (or no need for increased oxygen for people already on oxygen at home) 3) Mild-moderate symptoms for <b>10 days or less</b>	1) BMI 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile or higher on CDC growth chart 2) Immunosuppressed (see definition below) 3) Pregnant	1) BMI 35 or higher 2) Age 50 or older 3) Lung disease 4) Cardiovascular disease 5) Diabetes 6) Chronic kidney disease (stage 3, 4, 5, or end stage) 7) Immunosuppressed (see definition below) 8) Pregnant

### Immunosuppressed is defined as:

- Congenital or acquired immunodeficiency
- Transplant recipient
- Cancer currently receiving chemotherapy
- Autoimmune diseases requiring immunosuppressive therapy

## **Who isn't eligible to receive monoclonal antibodies?**

If you do not meet the eligibility criteria above, you are considered to have a low risk for developing severe COVID that requires a hospital stay. You are not able to receive monoclonal antibody treatment based on the EUA criteria.

## **I'm eligible for treatment. What happens next?**

After speaking with you by phone and reviewing the risks and benefits of the treatment, the pharmacist will refer you to the Michigan Infusion Scheduling Team (MIST). MIST will determine a location and time for your treatment. They will call within 24 hours and schedule you for the one-time infusion (Monday - Friday). Our intent is to provide the infusion as soon as possible. In most cases, the infusion will take place within 1-2 days of consent.

## **What should I expect the infusion to be like?**

You will receive the infusion one time. It is approximately 30-minutes long. You must wait for 1 hour after the infusion is completed to be monitored for any reactions or side effects.

## **What kind of side effects should I expect from treatment with monoclonal antibodies?**

Side effects during the infusion may include:

- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Itching
- Rash

You will be monitored by nurses who for side effects during the infusion, and for 1 hour afterwards.

## **How effective is treatment?**

Studies have shown that this treatment decreases hospital stays and death in people with COVID, compared to those with similar risk factors who do not receive treatment.

## Are there other treatment options?

There are other treatment options such as remdesivir and dexamethasone for people who have severe illness, are admitted to the hospital, and need oxygen support. **Remdesivir** is an antiviral, and **dexamethasone** is a steroid to suppress an overactive immune response. These are only approved to be used for people who are in the hospital with severe disease needing oxygen support. They are not approved for people at home with mild to moderate disease.

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