



What is Monoclonal Antibody Treatment?

(For COVID-19 Positive Children and Adults)

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.

Who is eligible for treatment with monoclonal antibodies?

The FDA EUA currently recommends treatment for people with mild to moderate COVID-19 who have a medical condition that may increase their risk for developing serious symptoms.

Examples for such conditions include:

- People with impaired immune system.
- Transplant recipients.
- Cancer patients currently receiving chemotherapy or bone marrow transplant.
- People with autoimmune disease who take medicines that suppress the immune system (immunosuppressive therapy).
- People who are pregnant.
- People who are obese.
- Other conditions that may increase the risk for severe COVID.

Who isn't eligible to receive monoclonal antibodies?

If you 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.

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. If it's possible that you are eligible you will receive a phone call from a monoclonal antibody-trained pharmacist. They will ask you some screening questions and discuss the potential treatment.

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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