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Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021

Pause in use of bamlanivimab/etesevimab lifted

The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Food and Drug Administration have informed providers of revisions to the authorized use of bamlanivimab and etesevimab administered together under emergency-use authorization. Based on the FDA's evaluation of recent SARS-CoV-2 variant frequency data, bamlanivimab and etesevimab administered together now can be used in all US states, territories and jurisdictions under the conditions of the emergency-use authorization.

Based on in vitro assays used to assess the susceptibility of viral variants to monoclonal antibodies, bamlanivimab and etesevimab administered together is expected to retain activity against the delta variant, which has been associated with a decrease in the frequency of variants expected to be resistant to bamlanivimab and etesevimab.

The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and the Food and Drug Administration will continue to work with the CDC and the National Institutes of Health to follow variants that may affect the use of monoclonal antibody therapies authorized for emergency use.

Email questions or concerns to COVID19Therapeutics@hhs.gov.

'Substantial surge' in monoclonal antibody treatments spurs HHS policy changes

The Department of Health and Human Services is making temporary changes to its distribution policies for monoclonal antibody therapies, with an eye on maintaining sufficient supply to meet demand. HHS says the changes, which are in response to "a substantial surge in the utilization of monoclonal antibody drugs, particularly in areas of the country with low vaccination rates," include:

- Limiting immediate orders and shipment only to administration sites with HHSProtect accounts and current utilization reporting.
- Reviewing orders for alignment with utilization, currently estimated at 70% of orders.

Hospitals with questions about ordering and distributing these treatments can email the Federal COVID-19 Response Team at COVID19therapeutics@hhs.gov.

Provider relief fund information moves to HRSA website

Information about the provider relief fund program – previously hosted on the US Department of Health and Human Services website – can now be found on the Health Resources and Services Administration's site. Users who visit the program's previous site will be automatically redirected to the new site. All archived content will remain available to the public.

Educational opportunity

- A Path Forward: Thriving in Rural Health Care After COVID-19, 11 am-Noon, Thursday, Sept. 16. Tying community engagement to diversity and health equity, this webinar explores true stories of the amazing resiliency of rural communities amid the formidable challenges of a pandemic.
- Making Your HVAC Systems Pandemic Ready with Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization, 1:30-2:30 pm, Tuesday, Oct. 26. Needlepoint bipolar ionization reduces particles, kills mold and bacteria, and inactivates viruses. The system is also very effective at coil cleaning and odor/VOC mitigation by disassociating the compound into its component elements.

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