Alameda County Health Advisory: Outpatient Therapies for the Treatment and Prevention of COVID-19 in High-Risk Patients (revisions in red)

August 10, 2022

RECENT UPDATES:

- Evusheld: Recent major changes, warnings, dosing (June 2022). See also ACPHD Health Alert (7.21.22).
- Remdesivir: Fully approved for treatment of adults/children for in- and outpatients
- Paxlovid: EUA now allows limited prescribing by Pharmacists
- CDPH COVID-19 Test-to-Treat-Playbook.pdf (ca.gov) (June 2022) Note: A recommendation is included to prescribe therapeutics “to all individuals age 50+ and to populations who face structural barriers to health that have contributed to disproportionate rates of hospitalization and death from COVID-19.” (pg. 6)
- Federal Test to Treat locator website
- COVID-19 Therapeutics Locator (arcgis.com)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Health Advisory is to update clinicians in Alameda County about the availability of outpatient therapies for high-risk patients with 1) mild to moderate COVID-19 illness who are not yet hospitalized; or 2) ongoing risk of exposure to COVID-19. When resources are limited, therapy should be prioritized for patients who are at the highest risk of progressing to severe COVID-19, as described in the NIH Panel’s interim statement. Currently, it is possible to offer available therapies to all eligible patients.

TREATMENTS

The Panel’s current COVID outpatient treatment recommendations found in What’s New | COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines (nih.gov) are as follows:

Preferred (listed in order of preference):

- Paxlovid™ (nirmatrelvir 300 mg plus ritonavir 100 mg) orally twice daily for 5 days
- Remdesivir IV daily for 3 days

Alternative therapies (for use if none of the preferred therapies are available, feasible to deliver, or clinically appropriate, listed in alphabetical order):

- Bebtelovimab 175 mg, administered as a single intravenous (IV) infusion
- Lagevrio™ (Molnupiravir) 800 mg orally twice daily for 5 days

See also CDPH Treatment Q & A for Providers and CDPH Distribution and Ordering on the CDPH COVID-19 Treatment webpage. Register here for biweekly CDPH webinars for therapeutics providers.
PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS

**Evusheld** is a combination monoclonal antibody that can only be used in high-risk patients who:

- Do NOT have COVID-19 and have NOT had a recent exposure; AND
- Have moderate to severe immunocompromise due to a medical condition or receipt of immunosuppressive medications or treatments, and may not mount an adequate immune response to COVID-19 vaccination, OR
- Cannot be vaccinated due to a history of a severe adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine(s) and/or vaccine component(s).

- For individuals with a history of severe hypersensitivity reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine, consider consultation with an allergist-immunologist prior to EVUSHELD administration.
- While the Evusheld fact sheet does not recommend for or against COVID-19 testing prior to administration, a clinical assessment would be appropriate. If there is any concern for COVID-19 infection due to symptoms or exposure, testing should be pursued.
- The FDA has authorized a change in dosing of Evusheld. Consider repeat dosing every six months if patients need ongoing protection.
- New helpline and ordering pathway for Evusheld

CURRENT AVAILABILITY OF THERAPEUTICS

Two therapeutic locator websites are listed below to identify sources of therapeutics and “test to treat” sites:


State pharmacy waiver information for Emergency Departments: [Prescriber Dispensing of COVID-19 Oral Therapeutic Medication to Emergency Room Patient](https://dhhs.hub.arcgis.com/dhhs/PHR_Injection/)

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLINICIANS PRESCRIBING MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES (and possibly Remdesivir) FOR TREATMENT

ACPHD recommends that clinicians with patients who meet the inclusion criteria for the use of outpatient MAB therapy or Remdesivir contact the following entities, or other participating medical systems, for information on treatment availability. Treatment should be coordinated in advance of sending a patient for therapy.

- Outpatients:
  - Physician referral through the patient’s health plan
  - Total Infusion: [https://totalinfusion.com/make-a-referral/](https://totalinfusion.com/make-a-referral/) (Monoclonal Antibodies only)

- LTCF Residents: Specialty Pharmacy associated with an LTCF

If timely appointments in Alameda County are not available for your patients, you can contact the hospitals below:

- **Stanford Medical Center, Palo Alto**: Contact DL-SHC-Pharmacy-COVID@stanfordhealthcare.org or (650) 391-8503. [COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Therapies - Patients | Stanford Health Care](https://covid-19-therapy.stanfordmedicine.org/
- **UCSF**: [UCSF External Self or Provider Referral for COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Outpatient Treatment (PDF)](https://covid-19-therapy.stanfordmedicine.org/

For questions about treatment with COVID-19 outpatient therapeutic products, please contact Arnie Spanjers, MD, at arnie.spanjers@acgov.org