

# MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES

## THE COVID-19 TREATMENT OPTION

Monoclonal Antibodies (MABs) such as the combination of Casirivimab/Imdevimab (CAT) are neutralizing antibodies against COVID-19. These drugs are offered at BCHCC. When there is a virus in your body, like COVID-19, your immune system makes antibodies to fight it off. But it takes time for your body to make antibodies for a new virus, and in the meantime you could get very sick. This is where MABs come in.

MABs contain man-made antibodies that are similar to the antibodies of patients who recovered from COVID-19. Scientists think that these antibodies may help limit the amount of virus in your body. This could give your body more time to learn how to make its own antibodies. MABs do not have any COVID-19 virus in them. CAT also treats the new COVID-19 variants. Recently, this combination drug was approved to help prevent you from getting COVID-19 before you get sick if you are exposed and meet certain criteria.

### Requirements for Treatment

MABs are a treatment option for people with COVID-19 who:

- Are age 12 or older
- Weigh 88 pounds or more
- Have had mild to moderate symptoms for 10 days or less
- Are at high risk to get very sick from COVID-19
- This drug is not for people who are already in the hospital because of their COVID-19 symptoms

### For pediatric patients age 12-17, MABs may be an option if you:

- Have obesity, with a BMI higher than 85 percent of patients your same age or gender
- Have heart disease, sickle cell disease, or a long-term lung disease
- Have a developmental condition, like cerebral palsy
- Regularly use medical technology, like a ventilator or feeding tube

### For adults MABs may be an option if you:

- Are age 65 or older
- Have obesity, with a body mass index (BMI) of 35 or higher
- Have diabetes, chronic kidney disease, or a condition that weakens the immune system
- Take medication that weakens the immune system
- Are age 55 or older and have heart disease, high blood pressure, or a long-term lung disease
- Are Pregnant

### Requirements for Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) (treatment after you have been exposed to COVID-19)

- Have been exposed to COVID-19 and are unvaccinated
- Have been exposed to COVID-19 and are vaccinated and may not make a large immune response to the vaccine (such as people who are transplant patients, cancer patients taking chemotherapy or people who take medications for auto-immune disorders)

### How MABs Work

MABs are an intravenous (IV) infusion but may be given as a subcutaneous (Sub-Q) injection if needed. It goes directly into your blood through a small needle inserted in your arm. MABs are given in the outpatient department at Butler County Health Care Center. The process takes approximately three hours to complete.

### How Soon Do MABs Start Working?

Everyone's body reacts differently, so there is no way to know for sure. In clinical trials, people who took MABs began to see their symptoms improve after about day six. A nurse at BCHCC will routinely follow up with those who receive MABs to track results.

### How Do I Request MABs?

Butler County Health Care Center has a limited supply of MABs, which is why you must meet the requirements above. If you think you qualify for a MAB, the new COVID-19 treatment option, please contact your provider immediately.

\*Please note MAB's are not a substitute for the vaccine and is not approved for pre-exposure prophylaxis.