

FHCP Memorandum

To: Volusia and Flagler County Contracted Providers

FROM: Joseph J. Zuckerman, M.D., Chief Medical Officer

DATE: March 26, 2021

RE: Ormond Beach COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibody Infusion Clinic

FHCP has recently started a COVID-19 Antibody Infusion Clinic to treat high-risk patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 infection. We have been given access to the monoclonal antibodies Bamlanivimab and Etesevimab, for administration within our own facilities. Antibody therapy has been available in our community via the hospital since late January 2021 and more than 50 of our members have received this infusion and the results have been encouraging. There is no cost to the patient for this treatment.

We have set up a dedicated COVID-19 infusion center at our Ormond Beach - Nova Road facility. Monoclonal antibody infusion treatment is evidence-based treatment for mild to moderate, out-patient appropriate COVID-19 infections and is endorsed by evidence-based treatment guidelines by the ISDA and NIH.

Given concerns for infection control, this temporary infusion center will keep patients, acutely ill with COVID-19, separated from the uninfected population. Infusions will be administered by an infusion nurse and a physician will be on-site to immediately address and treat any adverse reactions from the infusion. In the past 3 weeks, we've performed 18 of these infusions and the outcomes are showing positive results without any significant adverse reactions.

Not all patients who test positive for COVID-19 will qualify for or need this treatment. Bamlanivimab & Etesevimab are most effective if given early in the disease course, not to exceed 10 days after the onset of symptoms. The infusion is indicated for patients at high-risk of adverse outcomes with mild to moderate infection symptoms (not requiring supplemental oxygen), who meet any of the following criteria:

- Body mass index (BMI) ≥ 35 kg/m²
- Chronic kidney disease
- Diabetes mellitus
- Immunosuppression (immunosuppressive disease or treatment)
- ≥ 65 years of age
- ≥ 55 years of age **and** who have CAD, HTN, COPD or chronic lung disease
- 12-17 years of age with sickle cell disease, neurodevelopmental disorders, asthma or chronic lung disease



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If you'd like to refer a member for the Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab infusion, **you can order the medication by completing the attached Infusion Therapy Physician Orders Form and faxing to (386) 671-1127. Please include positive test result and a progress note, if available. Given this is a new process, please instruct your clinical team to call the OB office to confirm receipt of these orders at (386) 671-4337. This will trigger a Physician Review of the request to verify inclusion criteria. The OB staff will then schedule the member on either Tuesday or Friday 9am – 1 pm at the Wellness Center for their infusion and notify them of their appointment. Special instructions will be given to these members for parking and escort into the infusion center.**

We appreciate your partnership in this endeavor as we guide our members through this pandemic. Please direct any clinical questions to Dr. Neil Nipper concerning this infusion. He can be reached at (386) 676-4337 or at nnipper@fhcp.com.

With Respect,

Joseph J. Zuckerman, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer
Florida Health Care Plan, Inc.