

# Monoclonal Antibody Infusion: What You and Your Patients Need to Know



## Overview

- **Indications:** Monoclonal antibody (mAb) infusion is an emergency use authorized treatment for eligible patients with mild or moderate COVID-19 symptoms. It can be used to treat COVID-19 progression in a high-risk patient who tests positive and to prevent COVID-19 in a high-risk patient who's been exposed. The Duke COVID Infusion team evaluates each patient individually to ensure they meet the treatment criteria.
- **Timing:** When given within 10 days of symptom onset to high-risk patients, it can significantly reduce the risk of hospitalization and help them recover more quickly.
- **Importance of vaccination:** This treatment is not a substitute for vaccination against COVID-19.

## Inclusion Criteria

**Patients must meet all of the following criteria to qualify for mAb infusion:**

- Have a positive COVID-19 test with mild or moderate symptoms
- Have been symptomatic for less than 10 days
- Do not need oxygen

**Patients eligible for mAb infusion include:**

- People over age 65
- People with a BMI of 25 or greater
- People with certain chronic medical conditions, including kidney disease and heart disease
- People who are immunocompromised

## Exclusion Criteria

**mAbs are not authorized for use in patients who:**

- Are hospitalized due to COVID-19
- Require oxygen therapy due to COVID-19
- Require chronic oxygen therapy due to an underlying non-COVID-19 related condition
- Are between the ages of 12-17 and weigh less than 88 pounds
- Are under age 12

*All high-risk adults and high-risk youth ages 12-17 who weigh at least 88 pounds may be eligible for treatment.*

## Referring to Duke

**Patients who may be eligible for mAbs can self-refer by calling the Duke COVID Infusion team.**

**Phone:** 919-385-0431

**Location:** Duke Health Center at Southpoint, 6301 Herndon Rd, Durham, NC 27713

**Cost:** Free to eligible patients



## What is in a monoclonal antibody infusion?



Monoclonal antibodies are lab-created proteins that stop the COVID-19 virus from reproducing. When the virus is unable to replicate, the viral load stays low. As a result, the symptoms that often land people in the hospital don't worsen.

## When is the best time to get the treatment?



For the treatment to be effective, it should be given within 10 days of symptom onset.

## How long does the treatment take?



The one-time infusion takes 20 to 60 minutes to administer in an outpatient clinic. Patients are monitored for about an hour, then go home.

## What are possible side effects from this treatment?



Side effects are rare (less than 1 in 100) but often occur within the first hour after the infusion. Allergic reactions are possible during or after the infusion and may include shortness of breath, rash, itching or dizziness.

## Can patients get this infusion if they have been vaccinated?



Yes. If a patient has already been vaccinated and contracts COVID-19, they may still benefit from this treatment if indicated. The faster they receive the mAb infusion (ideally within 7 to 10 days of symptom onset), the more likely it is to stop the virus's ability to reproduce.

## What are high-risk factors for severe illness?



High-risk factors for severe illness can include: cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome or other developmental conditions; chronic kidney disease; being a current or former smoker; dementia or other neurological conditions; diabetes (type 1 or 2); heart disease including high blood pressure; immunosuppressive disease or medication; lung disease such as COPD, asthma or cystic fibrosis; obesity or being overweight; older age; pregnancy; regular use of a feeding tube or ventilator; sickle cell disease or thalassemia; stroke or cerebrovascular disease; and substance use disorders.

## How does this treatment differ from other COVID-19 treatments?



Monoclonal antibody treatment helps stimulate the immune system and prevents serious illness. Other treatments such as Remdesivir are used to treat those that are already seriously ill with COVID-19. Remdesivir is FDA approved for the treatment of COVID-19 in hospitalized patients ages 12 and older who weigh at least 88 pounds. Monoclonal antibodies are for patients who are not hospitalized with COVID-19.

