

## COVID-19 Treatment: Bamlanivimab

Bamlanivimab is a drug for mild to moderate COVID-19 infection in people who:

- Are age 12 and older.
- Weigh 88 pounds or more.
- Have mild to moderate symptoms for 10 days or less.
- Are at high risk to get very sick from COVID-19.

### Who is at high risk?

- If you are 12 years and older and:
  - Are obese, with a body mass index (BMI) of 35 or higher.
  - Have diabetes, chronic kidney disease, or a condition that weakens your immune system.
  - Take a medicine that weakens your immune system.
- If you are 65 years or older.
- If you are age 55 years or older and have:
  - Heart disease.
  - High blood pressure.
  - Long-term lung disease.
- If you are 12-17 years old and:
  - Are obese 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.

### How will I take this drug?

You only need to get the drug once. It is given through an intravenous (IV) infusion. This means that a nurse will put a small needle into your arm to give you the drug slowly over about 1 hour. The treatment is usually given at a hospital, clinic, or infusion center.

Getting any medicine through an IV can cause side effects in the area where the needle went into the skin. These may include:

- Pain that lasts a short time during the infusion.
- Bleeding, bruising, swelling, or soreness.
- Infection.

### Is bamlanivimab safe?

Scientists are not sure yet if this medicine is safe. It is still being studied. Benefits and risks are still unclear.

Based on the results of the research so far, the FDA has found that the drug may have more benefits than risks in treating COVID-19 during the pandemic. Because of this, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has given a temporary Emergency Use Authorization. This allows doctors to use bamlanivimab with certain patients.

**What are the side effects?**

Side effects can range from mild to serious. These may include:

- Wheezing (noisy breathing that may sound like whistling) or trouble breathing.
- Swollen lips, face, or throat.
- Flu-like symptoms (fever, sweating, chills, cough, sore throat, headache, or muscle pain).
- Upset stomach (nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea).
- Itching, swelling, rash, or hives.
- Dizziness or low blood pressure.
- Changes in your heartbeat.

**Tell your doctor or nurse right away** if you have any side effects during or after your infusion. Some of these side effects may be signs of a serious allergic reaction.

You can also report side effects to FDA MedWatch at [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch) or by calling 1-800-FDA-1088.

**What should I tell my healthcare provider before I receive bamlanivimab?**

Tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- Have any allergies.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.
- Have any serious illnesses.
- Are taking any medicines (prescription, over-the-counter, vitamins, and herbal products).

**What if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?**

There is limited experience treating pregnant women or breastfeeding mothers with bamlanivimab. For a mother and unborn baby, the benefit of receiving bamlanivimab may be greater than the risk from the treatment. If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, discuss your options and specific situation with your healthcare provider.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 12/2020 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#8171