

# PROMISING PRACTICES FOR PROMOTING UTILIZATION OF COVID-19 MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENTS



MARGOLIS CENTER  
for Health Policy

## Primary Care Providers

**Primary care providers** will need to consider and implement several partnerships in order to quickly guide their patients from a positive COVID-19 test result to infusion of a COVID-19 monoclonal antibody (mAb) treatment. Here, we outline emerging promising practices, example stakeholder antibody treatment efforts, and shared resources to further support primary care providers helping patients access antibody treatments at scale.

### CRITICAL STEPS

#### *Streamline the care process*

- Timely referral to testing center that provides rapid results
- Mechanism for communicating mAb treatment recommendation along with results if patient is eligible
- Mechanism for [same-day referral](#) to nearby infusion center or home infusion if transport to infusion center isn't feasible

#### *Educate participants in the care process*

- Assure that referral and scheduling for testing and infusion are [timely, well-established mechanisms](#) (via web resources, state supports, etc.)
- Provide patients with [educational material](#) regarding mAb availability and eligibility
- Provide patients who need it with [transportation](#) to/from infusion site if [assistance](#) programs are available

#### *Expand footprint to increase access*

- Assure that patients have straightforward access to testing and infusion services – track timeliness of testing, infusion rates for eligible patients

#### *Ensure adequate payment*

- Limited costs, expected to be covered by E&M fees (CMS, private payers could consider added incentives for referral)

### INNOVATIVE EXAMPLES & RESOURCES

#### *Streamline the care process*

- Several days can be shaved off the care pathway timeline with rapid diagnostics — a practice [recommended](#) by ASPR. [Maryland](#) is providing rapid tests to providers for this purpose.

#### *Educate participants in care process*

- For patients affiliated with independent primary care physicians, the National Infusion Center Association (NICA) developed COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatment [patient portal](#) with resources and an [infusion center locator](#).
- Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) holds a weekly [Outpatient Therapeutics Mini-Series](#) webinar supported by ASPR educating clinicians about COVID-19 monoclonal antibody therapy. Project ECHO also has an extensive list of provider-directed resources on their website.
- ASPR has released a [Monoclonal Antibody Therapeutics Digital Toolkit](#) with educational material about treatment options tailored for various social media platforms and a variety of patient demographics to increase patient awareness of treatment availability and eligibility criteria.

#### *Expand footprint to increase access*

- If interested in providing COVID-19 antibody infusion, allocation can be obtained through [ASPR's direct order process](#).
- To bridge testing, referral and infusion, some primary care groups have partnered with independent infusion companies. For example, one primary care group in the Northeast entered into an arrangement with [OI Infusion Services](#) to provide bamlanivimab 700 mg infusions to COVID-19 positive patients 18 years or older within 10 days of mild to moderate symptom onset. As part of the arrangement, the primary care group is the provider, responsible for billing and collecting of the services, providing suitable space for the infusion center, and physician oversight. The infusion provider is responsible for clinical nurse staffing, equipment, and supplies procurement.

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