The Capsule

December 2020

AvendiRx
LONG TERM CARE PHARMACY

COVID-19 UPDATES

COVID-19 Treatment Update

Bamlinivimab (LY-CoV555) – monoclonal antibody works against the SAR-CoV-2 spike protein to reduce viral replication. It may help prevent high risk patients from progression to requiring hospitalization. Therefore, Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) has been issued for bamlinivimab at select outpatient locations for patients who meet specific criteria:

1. Has a positive direct SARS-CoV-2 test, PLUS
2. Is not sick enough to require hospitalization, PLUS
3. Is not sick enough to require oxygen therapy, PLUS
4. Is at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 and/or hospitalization, PLUS
5. Is within 10 days of symptom onset

Bamlinivimab is administered as a single IV infusion over at least 60 minutes

National and state government agencies have allocated bamlanivimab doses to infusion sites across the country. State, territorial, and local health departments are responsible for allocating doses. For availability of bamalanivimab in your area, contact your local health department.

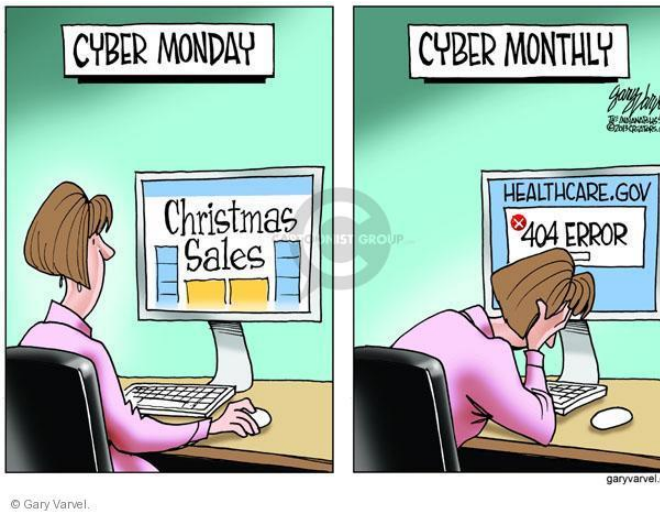
COVID Vaccine Update

- On December 11, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration issued an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in persons aged 16 years and older for the prevention of COVID-19.
- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP) with FDA recommended both health care personnel and residents of long-term care facilities (LTCFs) be offered vaccination in the initial phase of the COVID-19 vaccination program (Phase 1a**).
- Operation Warp Speed (OWS) has selected three vaccine candidates to fund for Phase 3 trials:
    1. **Pfizer and BioNTech's BNT162b2 (Approved on Dec 11,2020 for EUA)**
    2. Moderna's mRNA-1273
    3. University of Oxford and AstraZeneca's AZD1222

*More details on vaccines on the backside

Patient Facts

Residents may deny scheduled or PRN medication. If the nursing team sees that a medication has been regularly denied, convey to the medical team to help evaluate the continued need of this medication.



Review of how the vaccine works:

Vaccines work by teaching the body's immune system to detect and block virus. Vaccines aim to activate the immune system's T-helper cells, which are responsible for detecting the presence of a virus. They instruct B-cells to create antibodies that block the virus from being able to replicate and T-killer cells to destroy infected cells.

	Types of Vaccines	Candidate	Storage
mRNA Vaccine	Teach our cells how to make a protein—or even just a piece of a protein—that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies.*	BNT162 (Pfizer, BioNTech)	–70 °C (24-hour shelf-life at refrigerator temps of 2-8°C)
		mRNA-1273 (Moderna)	–20°C (7 day shelf-life at refrigerator temps of 2-8°C)
Vector Vaccine	Contain a weakened version of a live virus - a different virus than the one that causes COVID, which will introduce COVID genes into the cell. The genetic material gives cells instructions to make a protein that is unique to the virus that causes COVID-19 then producing an immune response.*	AZD1222 (AztraZeneca)	2-8°C regular refrigerator temps
Protein Subunit Vaccine	Harmless pieces (proteins) of the virus that cause COVID-19 instead of the entire germ which will cause an immune response.	To be announced	

Backordered Meds

- Generic ProAir
- Generic Geodon

New Generics

- Insulin Aspart protamine-insulin Aspart

Resources:

https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/Operation-Warp-Speed/; https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/how-they-work; https://www.covid19.lilly.com/bamlanivimab/; https://www.idstewardship.com/5-things-know-bamlanivimab/ https://www.unmc.edu/news.cfm?match=26596; https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mrna.html