Florida Blue
Your local Blue Cross Blue Shield

January 2022

Important Update Regarding Monoclonal Antibody Treatment for High-Risk COVID-19 Patients

In October 2021, we shared information about monoclonal antibody treatments and how to bill for the administration of the treatment for high-risk COVID-19 patients.

- On January 24, 2022, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) revoked its emergency use authorization for this treatment with certain medications. As a result of this change by the FDA, effective January 25, 2022, Florida Blue will no longer cover the administration of monoclonal antibody treatments bamlanivimab and etesevimab (administered together) and REGEN-COV (casirivimab and imdevimab). The FDA revoked the authorizations for these monoclonal antibody treatments as data shows these treatments are highly unlikely to be effective against the omicron variant which is the dominant strain circulating in the United States as of this publication.
- There are several other therapies, including the monoclonal antibody treatment sotrovimab, that are expected to work against the omicron variant that are authorized or approved to treat patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 symptoms who are at high risk for progression to severe disease, including hospitalization or death.
- As a result of this FDA decision, all state monoclonal antibody sites are closed until further notice. We are reminding members to contact their health care provider for guidance if they have symptoms or have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and are concerned about risk of serious illness.

You can read more on the FDA ruling here.

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