



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
*Aging and Long-Term Support Administration*  
*PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600*

February 26, 2021

ALTSA: NH #2021-020  
ALTSA: AFH #2021-015  
ALTSA: ALF #2021-013  
ALTSA: ESF #2021-013  
ALTSA: CCRSS #2021-012  
ALTSA: ICFIID #2021-012

**MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY INFUSION TREATMENT FOR COVID-19**

Dear Administrator/Provider/Superintendent:

On November 21, 2020, the Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization for use of monoclonal antibodies (mAb) to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 in certain people. Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the immune system's ability to fight off harmful pathogens such as viruses. Casirivimab and imdevimab are monoclonal antibodies that are designed to block the SARS-CoV-2 virus' attachment and entry into human cells. For more information about the treatment, including the Emergency Use Authorizations for casirivimab and imdevimab, follow this [link](#).

Currently mAb are being allocated to Washington State free-of-charge. The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and the Department of Health (DOH) are working to provide infusion services for mAb treatments in long-term care settings.

Monoclonal antibodies are administered through infusion and require a nurse to start and oversee the infusion, as well as to monitor the resident after the infusion is complete. To support providers who want to administer mAb, DSHS can provide rapid response staffing resources (see [December 2, 2020 letter](#) on this topic) to backfill direct care to residents while the facility staff are performing infusions. You may request mAb allocations from your pharmacy through a physician order for residents recently diagnosed with COVID, and may request rapid response nursing to backfill direct care for residents. Rapid response teams may *not* perform mAb infusions.

DSHS is currently seeking a home health provider that is willing to travel to long-term care settings across the state to administer mAb infusions.

Providers that do not have nursing staff to perform infusions may be able to transport their residents to ambulatory infusion clinics to receive treatment. We will be communicating with providers once we finalize a list of those ambulatory clinics throughout the state.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact Bett Schlemmer, Field Operations Office Chief, at [bett.schlemmer@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:bett.schlemmer@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Mike Anbesse, Director  
Residential Care Services

*DSHS: "Transforming Lives"*