

## TREATMENT GUIDELINE FOR PATIENTS WITH COVID-19

*This is a living document that will be updated as more data emerge.*

*Last updated: 8/9/22*

**Table 1. Overview of Treatment Recommendations Based on Hospitalization and Severity of Disease**

Not Hospitalized – Recommended Treatment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supportive care</li> <li>• Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) if <b>within 5 days of symptom onset</b> for patients who meet EUA criteria (see Table 2)</li> <li>• Consider monoclonal antibody if <b>within 7 days of symptom onset</b> and meet eligibility criteria (see Table 2)</li> </ul>	
Hospitalized	Recommended Treatment
<b>No supplemental oxygen</b> (or if on chronic oxygen therapy, not requiring an increase in baseline oxygen flow rate due to COVID-19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supportive Care, <b>AND</b></li> <li>• <u>One of the following for patients who meet criteria (see Table 2):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Paxlovid for 5 days (restricted to ID physicians - except for continuation of prior to admission medication), <b>OR</b></li> <li>○ For patients admitted for reasons not related to COVID-19 <b>AND</b> meet all criteria for use:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Remdesivir for 3 days (restricted to ID physicians)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Anticoagulation: refer to <a href="#">COVID-19 Anticoagulation and Coagulopathy Management for Adults</a></li> </ul>
<b>Low-flow supplemental oxygen</b> (i.e., persistent SpO2 ≤ 94% on room air AND requiring supplemental oxygen)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remdesivir (restricted to ID physicians) for 5 days or until discharge, whichever comes first, <b>AND</b></li> <li>• Dexamethasone 6 mg IV/PO daily for up to 10 days or until discharge, whichever comes first, <b>AND</b></li> <li>• Anticoagulation: refer to <a href="#">COVID-19 Anticoagulation and Coagulopathy Management for Adults</a></li> </ul>
<b>Non-invasive ventilation or high-flow oxygen devices</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dexamethasone 6 mg IV/PO daily for up to 10 days or until discharge, whichever comes first (consider higher dose in select patients – refer to Table 2), <b>AND</b></li> <li>• <b>Consider</b> remdesivir (clinical benefit uncertain - restricted to ID physicians) for 5 days or until discharge, whichever comes first, <b>AND</b></li> <li>• Baricitinib or tocilizumab (restricted to ID physicians), <b>AND</b></li> <li>• Anticoagulation: refer to <a href="#">COVID-19 Anticoagulation and Coagulopathy Management for Adults</a></li> </ul>
<b>Mechanical ventilation or ECMO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dexamethasone 6 mg IV/PO daily for up to 10 days or until discharge, whichever comes first (consider higher dose in select patients – refer to Table 2), <b>AND</b></li> <li>• If &lt; 48h of mechanical ventilation: tocilizumab or baricitinib (restricted to ID physicians), <b>AND</b></li> <li>• Anticoagulation: refer to <a href="#">COVID-19 Anticoagulation and Coagulopathy Management for Adults</a></li> </ul>

### SUGGESTED LABORATORY MONITORING

**Obtain at baseline and with any sudden decline in oxygenation status**

- Complete blood count with differential (*leukopenia and lymphopenia common*)
- Comprehensive metabolic panel (*moderately elevated AST/ALT described*)
- Lactate dehydrogenase (*elevation associated with increased mortality*)
- Ferritin (*extreme elevation associated with severe illness and mortality*)
- C-reactive protein (*extreme elevation associated with severe illness and mortality*)
- Procalcitonin (refer to Table 3)
- D-dimer (*commonly elevated; should NOT be used in isolation to prescribe therapeutic anticoagulation. See Beaumont’s COVID-19 Anticoagulation Management for Adults guideline for additional information*)

**Table 2. Recommended Agents for Therapeutic Management of COVID-19**

Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir/ritonavir) - Restricted to Infectious Disease physicians (except for continuation of PTA medication)	
<p><b>Restricted to Infectious Disease Prescribers for inpatient use.</b> Prescriber must complete all EUA requirements.</p> <p><i>The concomitant use of Paxlovid with certain other drugs may result in potentially significant drug interactions. Consult the EUA Fact Sheet and/or a web-based <a href="#">interaction checker</a> for potential drug interactions.</i></p> <p>Dosage regimen (based on renal function):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>eGFR ≥ 60 mL/min: 3 tablets (two 150 mg tablets nirmatrelvir with one 100 mg ritonavir tablet) PO BID for 5 days</li> <li>eGFR 30 to &lt; 60 mL/min: 2 tablets (one 150 mg tablet nirmatrelvir with one 100 mg ritonavir tablet) PO BID for 5 days</li> <li>eGFR &lt; 30 mL/min: Not recommended</li> </ul>	
Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive SARS-CoV-2 test (i.e., RT-PCR or antigen, not antibody test), <b>AND</b></li> <li>Symptom onset within the last 5 days, <b>AND</b></li> <li>High risk for progression to severe COVID-19 based on <a href="#">CDC risk factors</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pediatric patients &lt; 12 yo OR &lt; 40 kg, <b>OR</b></li> <li>Requiring supplemental oxygen (or if on chronic oxygen therapy, requiring an increase in baseline oxygen flow rate due to COVID-19), <b>OR</b></li> <li>eGFR &lt; 30 mL/min, <b>OR</b></li> <li>Severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class C), <b>OR</b></li> <li>Significant drug interactions (i.e., interactions associated with serious and/or life-threatening reactions or interactions that result in a significant reduction in nirmatrelvir or ritonavir plasma concentrations and may result in the potential for loss of virologic response and possible resistance)</li> </ul>
Monoclonal Antibodies for COVID-19	
Bebtelovimab	
<p><b>Treatment:</b> Bebtelovimab 175 mg/2 mL IV (administer over at least 30 seconds) x 1 (Cannot be used for post-exposure prophylaxis)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>For outpatient use only.</b> Prescriber must complete all EUA requirements.</li> <li><u>Therapeutic Interchange:</u> Pharmacist can interchange sotrovimab to the new FDA recommended monoclonal antibody (mAb), bebtelovimab                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patients prescribed sotrovimab will be interchanged to bebtelovimab using the order mode of "Within Scope: No co-sign required". The ordering prescriber will be the authorizing provider.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Treatment Criteria	
Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outpatient or an inpatient admitted for reasons not related to COVID-19, <b>AND</b></li> <li>Positive SARS-CoV-2 test (i.e., RT-PCR or antigen, not antibody test), <b>AND</b></li> <li>Symptom onset within the last 7 days, <b>AND</b></li> <li>High risk for progression to severe COVID-19 based on <a href="#">CDC risk factors</a>, <b>AND</b></li> <li>Alternative COVID-19 treatment options approved or authorized by the FDA are not accessible or clinically appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pediatric patients &lt; 12 yo OR &lt; 40 kg, <b>OR</b></li> <li>Requiring supplemental oxygen (or if on chronic oxygen therapy, requiring an increase in baseline oxygen flow rate due to COVID-19)</li> </ul>

**Monoclonal Antibodies for COVID-19**

**Tixagevimab/cilgavimab (Evusheld)**

**Pre-exposure Prophylaxis:** Tixagevimab/cilgavimab (Evusheld) IM x 1 (Cannot be used for treatment or post-exposure prophylaxis)

- Dose: Tixagevimab 300 mg (3 mL)/cilgavimab 300 mg (3 mL) IM x 1
- Repeat dose: Tixagevimab 300 mg (3 mL)/cilgavimab 300 mg (3 mL) IM x 1 every 6 months for patients needing ongoing protection
- Therapeutic Interchange: Pharmacist may adjust the first dose of Evusheld to match the new FDA recommended dose of tixagevimab 300mg/cilgavimab 300mg
  - Patients prescribed first doses of tixagevimab 150 mg /cilgavimab 150 mg will be interchanged to the new FDA recommended dose of tixagevimab 300mg/cilgavimab 300mg
  - Pharmacists may adjust the dose of Evusheld during order verification
  - If a patient is eligible for a dose adjustment, the pharmacist can discontinue the initial order using discontinuation reason of "dose adjustment" and may order the new dose using the order mode of "Within Scope: No co-sign required". The ordering prescriber will be the authorizing provider.

**Pre-exposure Prophylaxis Criteria**

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meets MDHHS eligibility criteria (see criteria below)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pediatric patients &lt; 12 yo OR &lt; 40 kg, <b>OR</b></li><li>• COVID vaccine within last 14 days</li></ul>

**MDHHS Tier Eligibility Criteria**

**Tier 1**

- Received B-cell depleting therapies (e.g., rituximab, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab, alemtuzumab) within 1 year
- Receiving Bruton tyrosine kinase inhibitors
- Chimeric antigen receptor T cell recipients
- Post-hematopoietic cell transplant recipient with chronic graft versus host disease or receiving immunosuppressive medications for another indication
- Patients with hematologic malignancies who are on active therapy
- Solid-organ transplant recipients who: 1) are lung transplant recipients, or 2) are within 1 year of receiving a solid-organ transplant (other than lung transplant), or 3) solid-organ transplant recipients with recent treatment for acute rejection with T or B cell depleting agents
- Patients with severe combined immunodeficiencies
- Patients with untreated HIV who have a CD4 T lymphocyte cell count < 50 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>

**Tier 2**

- Active treatment for solid tumor malignancy
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection (CD4 cell counts of 50-200/mm<sup>3</sup>, history of an AIDS-defining illness without immune reconstitution, or clinical manifestations of symptomatic HIV)
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., ≥ 20 mg prednisone or equivalent per day when administered for ≥ 2 weeks), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory (e.g., B-cell depleting agents), tumor-necrosis (TNF) blockers, and other biologic agents
- Vaccination with any available COVID-19 vaccine, according to the approved or authorized schedule, is not recommended due to a history of severe adverse reaction (e.g., severe allergic reaction) to a COVID-19 vaccine(s)

**Remdesivir (Restricted to Infectious Disease physicians. Use will be audited by the Antimicrobial Stewardship Team)**

3-day Regimen Criteria	5-day Regimen Criteria
<p><b>Inclusion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admitted for reasons not related to COVID-19, <b>AND</b></li> <li>• Symptom onset ≤ 7 days, <b>AND</b></li> <li>• Positive SARS-CoV-2 test (i.e., RT-PCR or antigen, not antibody test) , <b>AND</b></li> <li>• Oxygen saturation &gt; 94% on room air, <b>AND</b></li> <li>• At least 1 risk factor for severe disease, which include the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Older age (e.g., age ≥ 60 years of age)</li> <li>○ BMI ≥ 30</li> <li>○ Pregnancy</li> <li>○ Chronic kidney disease (CKD)</li> <li>○ Chronic liver disease</li> <li>○ Diabetes</li> <li>○ Immunosuppressive disease or immunosuppressive treatment</li> <li>○ Cardiovascular disease (including congenital heart disease) or hypertension</li> <li>○ Cerebrovascular disease</li> <li>○ Chronic lung diseases (e.g., COPD, interstitial lung disease)</li> <li>○ Sickle cell disease</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Exclusion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weight &lt; 3.5 kg, <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Patients being transferred/awaiting transfer</li> </ul>	<p><b>Inclusion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive SARS-CoV-2 test (i.e., RT-PCR or antigen, not antibody test), <b>AND</b></li> <li>• Symptom onset ≤ 14 days, <b>AND</b></li> <li>• Persistent SpO2 ≤ 94% on room air and requiring supplemental oxygen or on non-invasive ventilation or high-flow oxygen devices</li> </ul> <p><b>Exclusion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanical ventilation (MV) or extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Weight &lt; 3.5 kg, <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Patients being transferred/awaiting transfer</li> </ul>

**Precautions**

- eGFR < 30 mL/min: the pharmacokinetics have not been evaluated in patients with eGFR < 30 mL/min. The risk of toxicity in these patients is low and benefit of remdesivir likely outweighs this risk.
- ALT ≥ 5 x ULN at baseline: risk of hepatotoxicity in these patients is not known due to exclusion from clinical trials. Use of remdesivir should be based on potential risk versus benefit considerations.

**Adult Dosing:**  
 200 mg IV x 1 on day 1, then 100 mg IV daily for days 2 – 5 or until hospital discharge, whichever comes first. **For 3-day regimen:** if progress to hypoxia, therapy can be extended to a total of 5 days. **For 5-day regimen:** if progress to requiring mechanical ventilation/ECMO, can still complete the 5-day course.

**Pediatric Dosing (FDA approved for 12 yo and weighing at least 40 kg):**  
 < 40 kg: 5 mg/kg IV load on day 1, then 2.5 mg/kg IV q24hr for days 2-5  
 ≥ 40 kg: 200 mg IV load on day 1, then 100 mg IV q24hr for days 2-5  
**Pediatric patients 3.5 kg to < 40 kg or pediatric patients < 12 yo & weigh at least 3.5 kg:** prescriber must complete all EUA requirements

**Laboratory Monitoring**

- Prior to initiation: Scr/BUN, hepatic function, prothrombin time
- During therapy: Scr/BUN and prothrombin time should be monitored as clinically appropriate, hepatic function panel should be monitored as follows:
  - 3-day therapy: If baseline ALT is < 2.5 x ULN: no additional monitoring is required, if baseline or follow-up ALT is > 2.5 x ULN: hepatic function panel should be checked daily
  - 5-day therapy: If baseline ALT is < 2.5 x ULN: check on day 3 of therapy, if baseline or follow-up ALT is > 2.5 x ULN: hepatic function panel should be checked daily
- Consider discontinuing if ALT > 10 x ULN; discontinue if ALT elevation accompanied by signs or symptoms of liver inflammation
  - Pharmacists can order necessary labs listed above for patients receiving remdesivir

**Infusion-related reactions** (e.g., hypotension, hypertension, tachycardia, bradycardia, hypoxia, fever, dyspnea, wheezing, angioedema, rash, nausea, diaphoresis, and shivering): Slow infusion rate, with a maximum infusion time up to 120 minutes, to potentially prevent these signs and symptoms. If clinically significant infusion-related reactions occur, immediately discontinue & initiate appropriate treatment.

## Steroids\*

Recommended in adult patients with **persistent** SpO<sub>2</sub> ≤ 94% on room air **AND** requiring supplemental oxygen (i.e., on low- or high-flow nasal oxygen, non-invasive or invasive mechanical ventilation, or ECMO):

- **Preferred:** Dexamethasone 6 mg IV/PO q24h **for up to 10 days (or until discharge if earlier)**
- **Pregnant Patients:**
  - **COVID-19:** Dexamethasone 6 mg IV/PO q24h **for up to 10 days (or until discharge if earlier)**
  - **COVID-19 and fetal lung maturity:** Dexamethasone 6 mg IV/PO q12h x 4 doses, then dexamethasone 6 mg IV/PO q24h to complete a total of 10 days or until discharge (whichever comes first)
- Alternatives if dexamethasone is unavailable:
  - Methylprednisolone 40 mg IV q24h for up to 10 days (or until discharge if earlier)
  - Prednisone 40 mg PO q24h for up to 10 days (or until discharge if earlier)
- **For select patients on high-flow nasal oxygen, non-invasive or invasive mechanical ventilation, or ECMO (**based on physician discretion**):**
  - Consider high-dose steroids (maximum recommended dose dexamethasone 20 mg/day or methylprednisolone 80 mg/day):
    - Dexamethasone 20 mg IV/PO q24h x 5 days, then 10 mg IV/PO q24h x 5 days --OR--
    - Methylprednisolone 40 mg IV q12h x 5 days, then 40 mg IV q24h x 5 days
- **Monitor:**
  - Oxygenation status, CRP, ferritin, and LDH. If no improvement, rule out secondary bacterial infection.
  - Blood glucose in high-risk individuals. Consider point-of-care blood glucose monitoring 4 times per day for 24-48 hours to monitor for steroid induced hyperglycemia, hyperglycemic crises, and new onset diabetes or for chronic diabetes management.
- For adult patients with refractory septic shock and COVID-19 the recommendation is to follow surviving sepsis guidelines with consideration for use with hydrocortisone 200 mg IV per day divided.
- **Drug-drug interactions:** The combination of dexamethasone and direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs: apixaban, rivaroxaban, dabigatran, edoxaban and betrixaban) **should be avoided**. Dexamethasone is believed to be a combined P-glycoprotein and strong CYP 3A4 inducer. When used in combination with DOACs there is a potential for reduced DOAC drug concentration and increased risk of thrombosis.
- **Stress ulcer prophylaxis:** Consider in patients also on therapeutic anticoagulation, mechanical ventilation, and/or patients with coagulopathy

**Pediatric patients:** Methylprednisolone IV (at an appropriate weight-based dose) may be initiated in pediatric ICU patients by the Pediatric Intensivist on a case-by-case basis. As literature evolves, recommendations and dosing in pediatric patients will be updated.

*\*for patients with a contraindication to steroids, consult Infectious Diseases to determine possible alternatives*

**Baricitinib** (Restricted to Infectious Disease physicians)

**Inclusion Criteria:**

- Positive SARS-CoV-2 test (i.e., RT-PCR or antigen, not antibody test), **AND**
- Receiving high-flow oxygen or noninvasive ventilation or < 48h of mechanical ventilation if administering with steroids. Baricitinib may also be administered as a steroid alternative in those patients with a contraindication to steroids, **AND**
- Age ≥ 2 years old (prescriber must complete EUA requirements for patients 2- 17 yo)

**Exclusion Criteria:**

- Mechanical ventilation > 48 hours, **OR**
- Absolute neutrophil count (ANC) < 0.5 bil/L, **OR**
- Absolute lymphocyte count (ALC) < 0.2 bil/L, **OR**
- Age 9 yo and older: eGFR < 15 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> or on dialysis, **OR**
- Age 2 to < 9 yo: eGFR < 30 ml/min /1.73 m<sup>2</sup> or on dialysis, **OR**
- Received tocilizumab, **OR**
- Active tuberculosis, **OR**
- Receipt of live vaccine within the past 14 days

**Dosage Adjustments based on Age and eGFR**

eGFR (mL/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> )	Recommendation	Duration
≥ 60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 yo and older: 4 mg once daily</li> <li>• 2 to &lt; 9 yo: 2 mg once daily</li> </ul>	14 days or until discharge, whichever comes first
30 to < 60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 yo and older: 2 mg once daily</li> <li>• 2 to &lt; 9 yo: 1 mg once daily</li> </ul>	
15 to < 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 yo and older: 1 mg once daily</li> <li>• 2 to &lt; 9 yo: Not recommended</li> </ul>	
< 15, on dialysis or ESRD	Not recommended	

**Precautions (prescribers will have to discuss risk vs benefit with patient)**

- Active serious infections other than COVID-19
- Suspected or confirmed DVT/PE
- Patients at risk for GI perforations
- Severe hepatic impairment
- Pregnancy

**Required Laboratory Monitoring**

A pharmacist may order the appropriate laboratory tests using the order mode of "Within Scope: No co-sign required" if not ordered by the prescriber.

	Frequency of Laboratory Test	Action Required
<b>Baseline</b>	<p><u>Prior to first dose of baricitinib:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hepatic function panel</li> <li>• SCr and BUN</li> <li>• CBC with differential</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescriber should make any necessary renal dose adjustments based on GFR</li> <li>• Limited information regarding use in patients with any of the following findings:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ANC &lt; 1 bil/L</li> <li>○ ALC &lt; 0.2 bil/L</li> <li>○ Hemoglobin &lt; 8 g/dL</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring while on Treatment</b>	<p><u>Hepatic function panel</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every 2-3 days or daily if AST/ALT elevated</li> </ul> <p><u>SCr and BUN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every 2-3 days or daily if unstable renal function</li> </ul> <p><u>CBC with differential</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every 2-3 days or daily if ALC/ANC low</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prescriber should make any necessary renal dose adjustments based on GFR</li> <li>• It is recommended to discontinue if:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ALC &lt; 0.2 bil/L or ANC &lt; 0.5 bil/L. Can restart once above these thresholds.</li> <li>○ AST or ALT ≥ 10 x ULN or if drug-induced liver injury (DILI) is suspected, then hold therapy until DILI is excluded</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Tocilizumab** (Restricted to Infectious Disease physicians - *Prescriber must complete all EUA requirements*)

**Inclusion Criteria:**

- Positive SARS-CoV-2 test (i.e., RT-PCR or antigen, not antibody test), **AND**
- Receiving high-flow oxygen or noninvasive ventilation or < 48h of mechanical ventilation, **AND**
- Receiving systemic corticosteroids, **AND**
- Age ≥ 2 years old

**Exclusion Criteria:**

- Mechanical ventilation > 48 hours, **OR**
- ALT/AST > 10 x upper limit of normal, **OR**
- ANC < 1000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>, **OR**
- Platelet count < 50,000 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>, **OR**
- Active tuberculosis (see precaution section for LTBI) , **OR**
- Receiving baricitinib, **OR**
- Previously received an IL-6 inhibitor during hospitalization or is on long-term therapy with an IL-6 inhibitor, **OR**
- Patient has already received any dose of one or more of any form of tocilizumab, or sarilumab during this hospitalization or is on long-term therapy with any of these agents prior to this hospital admission, **OR**
- Receipt of live vaccine within the past 14 days
- For solid organ transplant patients, ID prescriber can consult Dr. Dilip Samarapungavan regarding risk of administration (Pager: 248-992-8057)

**Precautions (prescribers will have to discuss risk vs benefit with patient)**

- Active serious infections other than COVID-19
- Patients at risk for GI perforations
- Latent tuberculosis (LTBI)
- Pregnancy
- Not studied in patients CrCl < 30 mL/min (but unlikely to be significantly renally eliminated)

**Patients at or above 30 kg:** 8 mg/kg/dose (max: 800 mg) x 1 dose

**Patients < 30 kg:** 12 mg/kg/dose x 1

- A second dose of tocilizumab is not recommended due to increased risk of possible secondary infection and lack of proven benefit
- For patients >40 kg, doses should be rounded as follows:
  - > 90 kg: 800 mg
  - > 65 to 90 kg: 600 mg
  - > 40 to 65 kg: 400 mg

**Laboratory Monitoring:** LFTs and CBC

**Pediatric patient:** tocilizumab has not been studied in children with COVID-19; EUA granted for ≥ 2 yo based on extensive safety and dosing information for approved indications and adult efficacy data for COVID-19

**Pregnancy and Nursing Mothers:** Discussion of risk versus benefit with the patient's care team, OB/GYN and Infectious Disease physicians should occur prior to administration in a pregnant patient

**Adverse Reactions:** Headache, hypertension, infusion reactions (rash, pruritus, nausea, hyper- or hypotension), LFT elevations, cytopenias, diarrhea, and allergic reaction (rare), and secondary bacterial and fungal infections

**Table 3. Bacterial Co-infections and Other Treatment Considerations**

Bacterial Co-Infections with COVID-19	
<p>Bacterial co-infections are uncommon in patients presenting with COVID-19 infection. A meta-analysis by Langford <i>et al</i> and Michigan cohort study (n = 1705 patients) found only 3.5% of hospitalized patients had community-onset bacterial co-infection and risk was slightly higher in patients admitted directly to the ICU at 11%.<sup>7,8</sup> Secondary bacterial infections occurred in about 14% of COVID-19 patients.<sup>7</sup> A study by Zhou and colleagues found the median duration of fever to be 12 days (8-13 days) and cough persisted for 19 days in survivors.<sup>1</sup></p> <p><u>Procalcitonin</u>: Low procalcitonin can be used to help rule-out bacterial co-infection (PCT &lt; 0.25), but PCT &gt; 0.25 <b>should not be used as the only reason</b> to initiate or continue antibiotic therapy. PCT &gt; 0.25 is common in patients with COVID-19 pneumonia, especially in patients with more severe disease (possibly due to systemic inflammation); therefore, it appears to be an unreliable marker of bacterial superinfection. Also, patients with CKD and AKI have falsely elevated PCT levels, and as such PCT is not reliable in these patients.<sup>8,9</sup></p>	
Strongly Suspected or Confirmed MRSA pneumonia:	
<p><b>For patients with moderate to severe COVID-19 with suspected MRSA pneumonia:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-staphylococcal therapy is generally unnecessary, since concomitant bacterial infection appears to be uncommon</li> <li>• For sites using AUC-guided dosing for vancomycin (i.e., RYO, TRY, GRP):             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For any infection in which a vancomycin AUC goal of 400 – 600 is currently recommended switch to trough monitoring with a goal ~15 mg/L for patients with COVID-19</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If MRSA pneumonia is suspected: suggest oral linezolid instead of vancomycin to help decrease fluid volume and required blood draws             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Check MRSA nasal swab and discontinue if negative</li> <li>○ Check for drug-drug interactions prior to starting linezolid</li> <li>○ Caution in patients with pre-existing myelosuppression</li> </ul> </li> <li>• For pediatric patients: linezolid is restricted to Infectious Diseases physicians             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Infants &amp; children &lt; 12 years old: linezolid 10 mg/kg/dose (max: 600 mg/dose) PO every 8 hours</li> <li>○ Children &amp; adolescents ≥ 12 years: linezolid 600 mg PO every 12 hours or as recommended by Infectious Diseases</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Current evidence does not support use of the agents below for treatment of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 (due to lack of efficacy and/or potential toxicity)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hydroxychloroquine ± azithromycin</li> <li>• Lopinavir/ritonavir (Kaletra)</li> <li>• Oseltamivir</li> <li>• Baloxavir</li> <li>• Ribavirin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immune globulin (IVIG)</li> <li>• Interferon</li> <li>• Ivermectin (<i>current clinical and pharmacokinetic data does not support use for prevention or treatment; last reviewed 2.16.22</i>)</li> <li>• Oral Vitamin C</li> <li>• Colchicine (<i>insufficient data at this time; last reviewed 2.15.21</i>)</li> <li>• Vitamin D (<i>insufficient data at this time; last reviewed 5.3.21</i>)</li> <li>• Fluvoxamine (<i>insufficient data for hospitalized patients; last reviewed 11.4.21</i>)</li> </ul>

<b>Other Treatment Considerations</b>
<b>ACEi/ARBs therapy:</b> Patients chronically taking ACEi/ARBS should continue therapy. It is unclear if ACEi/ARBS will worsen or improve outcomes in patients with COVID-19.
<b>Oral Vitamin C:</b> Oral vitamin C does not achieve high enough concentrations in the serum for any potential therapeutic benefit due to saturable absorption. Also, oral vitamin C has the potential to cause harm, specifically AKI and/or kidney stones secondary to the accumulation of oxalate. Therefore, we do not recommend the use of oral vitamin C as adjuvant therapy for the treatment of COVID-19
<b>Statins:</b> Due to the lack of data, we do not recommend COVID-19 be the sole indication for statin therapy.
<b>Other Treatment Considerations</b> <i>(continued)</i>
<b>Stress ulcer prophylaxis:</b> Consider in patients on steroids and therapeutic anticoagulation, mechanical ventilation, and/or patients with coagulopathy

**Table 4. BH Investigational Studies**

COVID-19 Investigational Studies at Beaumont Health			
Study Agent	Location	Study Coordinator	Study Details
ACTIV-4 ACUTE Trial	RYO	Coleen Tessmar	Standard of Care Anticoagulation with or without a PGI2 inhibitor (ticagrelor) <u>Inclusion Criteria:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ≥ 18 years of age</li> <li>• Hospitalized for COVID-19</li> <li>• Enrolled within 72 hours of hospital admittance or 72 hours of positive COVID test</li> <li>• Expected to require hospitalization for &gt; 72 hours</li> </ul> <u>Exclusion Criteria:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement for chronic mechanical ventilation via tracheostomy prior to hospitalization</li> <li>• Pregnancy</li> </ul>

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