

New Covid-19 Treatment: Neutralising Monoclonal Antibodies (nMAB's) – Briefing August 2021

NHSE has asked all Systems nationally to implement a service to deliver a new treatment for Covid patients from September 2021. All Systems were asked to submit draft service delivery plans on 26th July 2021 and to continue to work through their implementation plans to ensure services are up and running by early September 2021.

Ruth Grabham, BSW CCG Medical Director is leading the work across BSW and is working with key stakeholders across the System on the service delivery model.

This briefing update sets out the key FAQs on the new treatment.

1. What Are nMAB's?

- nMABs work by blocking viral replication, effectively 'neutralising' the virus. By giving an infusion of these nMAB's there is evidence of improving time to recovery, and / or reduced hospitalisation and mortality.

2. What Are We Being Asked To Do?

- As a System we have been asked to provide a service to administer nMAB drugs by IV administration or subcutaneously to an identified cohort of patients who are outside the Hospital setting within 72hrs of a positive Covid-19 test.
- The service is expected to go live from early September 2021.

3. How many patients will require treatment?

- We have been advised that we should make preparations for between 20 - 90 patients to be treated weekly across our ICS population.

4. What treatment options are there?

- Three drugs are currently under consideration for treatment:
 - a) REGEN-COV (Casirivimab and imdevimad)
 - b) Sotrovimab
 - c) Bamlanivimab
- REGEN-COV drug is expected to be first of the three to be licensed for use by mid-August 2021.

5. What is the service delivery model in BSW?

- BSW System will deliver the service out of the 3 acute hospitals initially.



- This will minimise the time that patients would need to travel for treatment and manage volume and fluctuations in demand.
- We will continue to explore opportunities to extend this service to an outreach model in the community when it is safe to do so.

6. Which patients are eligible for treatment?

- Provisional eligibility criteria includes:
 - a) Adults and children aged 12+
 - b) Confirmed + ve PCR test within the last 72 hrs
 - c) Not requiring hospitalisation or supplemental oxygen therapy for Covid19
 - d) Have a condition or diagnosis that is prioritised for treatment with nMABs

7. How will patients be prioritised for treatment?

- Patient prioritisation cohorts will be done nationally and we are awaiting further guidance on the priority groups.
- However approach agreed by the National Expert Group includes patients::
 - 1) At risk of morbidity and mortality
 - 2) With capacity to benefit from treatment
- There is consensus that a condition based approach to cohort identification and prioritisation should be used
- Prioritisation should be irrespective of age.

8. How will patients be contacted?

- Patients will be contacted in one of two ways:
 - 1) National identification pathway
 - NHS Digital will notify patients in the target cohort that they are eligible for treatment
 - NHS Digital will notify Systems via an online system about the eligible patients
 - Systems will book patients for triage and treatment
 - 2) GP / NHS 111 Referral Pathway
 - GPs will be able to refer eligible patients for treatment via ERS
 - NHS 111 will be able to refer eligible patients for treatment via DOS
- We are awaiting further details about the above pathways and we will share this once it is available.

9. Who can I contact if I have any queries or concerns?

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact:

- Ruth Grabham, Clinical lead , ruthgrabham@nhs.net
- Lucie Owens, Project Manager , lucieowens@nhs.net
- Amber House, Project Support, amberhouse@nhs.net