

Date: May 25, 2022

To: AHS Physicians
Transplant, Hematology and Oncology Specialists
Zone Directors

From: Dr. Mark Joffe
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RE: Evusheld for Prevention of COVID-19 in Highly Immunocompromised Patients

Beginning tomorrow, Thursday, May 26, 2022, Alberta Health Services is offering a new medication, tixagevimab and cilgavimab (Evusheld), for prevention of COVID-19, to Albertans who are highly immunocompromised.

Evusheld is a combination of two long-acting antibodies (tixagevimab and cilgavimab) that bind to the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the cause of COVID-19, to prevent it from entering cells in the body. Due to their underlying health condition(s), some immunocompromised individuals may not be able to fully generate their own antibodies against COVID-19 following vaccination or infection.

Evusheld will be provided through a third-party provider.

Evusheld is not a replacement for COVID-19 vaccination. Albertans are strongly encouraged to get fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

People who are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine dose should get it before taking Evusheld.

It is recommended to wait 14 days after COVID-19 vaccination before taking Evusheld and to wait 14 days after recovering from a COVID-19 infection before taking Evusheld.

Treatment eligibility:

Evusheld is initially being offered to patients who are immunocompromised and are unlikely to mount an adequate immune response to vaccination, and have the highest demonstrated risk of severe outcomes.

At this time, treatment will be offered to the following groups, regardless of vaccination status:

- Solid organ transplant patients who meet one of the following criteria:
 - Lung transplant
 - Received B cell depleting therapy (Rituximab), T- cell depletion (ATG, Alemtuzumab), or Belatecept within the past 6 months
 - Solid organ transplant in first 6 months post-transplant
 - Age >60
- Stem Cell Transplant or CAR-T therapy within the past 12 months
- Hematologic malignancy on a B cell depleting agent within 12 months

- To be eligible for treatment, patients must:
 - Weigh at least 40 kg
 - Not have a current COVID-19 infection
 - Not have a recent COVID-19 exposure (within eight days)
 - Be more than 14 days since:
 - their last COVID-19 vaccination
 - recovery from a COVID-19 infection

The COVID-19 Therapeutics Working Group considered available evidence to determine which patient groups are unlikely to respond to vaccination, and are at the highest risk of progressing to severe disease following infection with COVID-19. At this time there is a limited supply of Evusheld and the current criteria focus on patients who are most likely to benefit from treatment.

Identifying patients for treatment:

If a person meets the eligibility criteria for Evusheld, we encourage their specialist (transplant, hematology/oncology) to discuss this as a potential option with them. Alternatively, if a person is interested in taking Evusheld and thinks they meet the eligibility criteria, we encourage them to speak with their specialist to discuss this product.

For eligible patients, the specialist will send an order to the third-party provider and the provider will contact the patient to book an appointment for treatment. The provider will follow up with the specialist once the treatment is administered. For those who are eligible, the treatment is covered and paid for by Alberta Health and will be of no cost to the patient.

For more information see the [Evusheld Healthcare Providers FAQ](#).

Administration:

Evusheld is given as two intramuscular injections. Injections are provided into the side of each of the upper gluteal (buttock) muscles. This product is provided through a third-party provider:

- In Calgary and Edmonton, the provider will have dedicated infusion sites.
- A third party provider will travel to Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray, Red Deer, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat on a regular basis to administer this product.
- Other communities may be added based on demand

For more information, visit: ahs.ca/covidopt

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