

COVID INFUSION TREATMENT FAQ

What is Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab Infusion Treatment?

Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab is a neutralizing antibody drug. It contains man-made antibodies similar to the antibodies of people who have recovered from COVID. It does not contain any COVID-19 virus or parts and does not come from another person who has had COVID.

How is Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab given?

It is a one-time infusion given through an IV placed in a vein in the arm.

How long does it take?

The entire process is approximately three hours – including a one-hour infusion, a one-hour monitoring period immediately after, and additional time for starting the IV, providing education, etc.

Why consider taking Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab?

When the COVID-19 virus is in your body, your immune system makes antibodies to fight it off. This can take some time for a new virus and in the meantime, you may become very sick. Clinical trials suggest that the man-made antibodies in Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab may help limit the amount of virus in your body. This could give your immune system more time to make enough of its own antibodies.

When should I take Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab if I am positive for COVID-19?

This drug is for use in people who meet ALL the following criteria:

- Has a positive direct COVID-19 test
- Is not yet sick enough to be admitted to the hospital
- Is not yet sick enough to require additional oxygen
- Is within TEN days of symptom onset
- Is at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 and/or hospitalization.

Who is considered at high risk for severe COVID-19 and should receive Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab?

People who meet any ONE of the criteria listed below:

- Anyone 65 years of age or older
- Anyone ages 55 to 64 or older with hypertension, heart disease, or respiratory disease
- Anyone 18 years of age or older who have a BMI of 35 or more, diabetes, kidney disease, immunosuppressive disease, or takes medications that weaken the immune system

Can I get Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab if I normally wear oxygen at home?

Yes, as long as you are not requiring additional oxygen.

How do I sign up to receive Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab?

Contact your primary care provider as soon as possible and ask for a COVID Patient Infusion Referral to be faxed to the McLeod COVID Call Center at (843) 777-8516. The referral form is located on the main page of McLeodHealth.org. A representative from the McLeod COVID Call Center will then contact you with an appointment time and further instructions.

If you are a patient and do not have a primary care provider, please [click here](#) for more information on scheduling monoclonal antibody infusion therapy.

Can I take Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab if I had the COVID vaccine but still got COVID?

Yes.

Can I still get the COVID vaccine if I have received Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab?

Yes. Wait 90 days after your Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab treatment to receive the vaccine to ensure it is effective. You will be protected by your own immunity from this infusion for this time period.

I got diagnosed with COVID, but I don't feel bad. Should I wait to see if I get worse to ask about Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab?

No. Data shows that the sooner people receive this treatment, the better their outcomes. There is no way to predict how sick a person will get with COVID. Delaying treatment could lead to worsening symptoms and becoming ineligible to receive Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab.

How much does Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab cost?

The drug itself is free and is allocated by the state of South Carolina. However, patients may incur charges for costs associated with administering the drug. These charges vary from person to person based on their insurance. To date, Medicare and BlueCross BlueShield have approved payment for Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab.

What if I don't have insurance?

No one seeking the Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab infusion from McLeod Health is turned away, regardless of their ability to pay.

McLeod Health

McLeodHealth.org