

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT A NEW COVID-19 TREATMENT.

Have you been told you have COVID-19?

You may have a new treatment choice -- bamlanivimab (bam la NIV i mab).

The research so far shows that taking this drug may help some people with COVID-19.

It may:

- Limit the amount of virus in the body.
- Help people get better sooner.
- Lower their need to go to the hospital.

But it is a new drug that is still being studied. There is a lot that we don't know about it.

This handout will help you learn about COVID-19 and this new treatment. Together you and your doctor can decide if this treatment is right for you.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus. It can cause many symptoms.

You may:

- Have fever or chills.
- Cough, have a sore throat or trouble breathing.
- Have body aches or headaches.
- Have a runny or stuffy nose.
- Have an upset stomach, nausea, or diarrhea.
- Feel very tired.
- Lose your sense of taste or smell.

Most people with COVID-19 have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. Other people have serious illness. Many people have died. Older people and people with other health problems are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19.

How does this new treatment work?

When there is a virus in your body, your immune system makes antibodies to fight it off. But it takes time for your body to make antibodies for a new virus like COVID-19. In the meantime, you could get very sick.

Bamlanivimab has man-made antibodies. We think that it may help limit the amount of virus in your body. This could give your body more time to learn how to make its own antibodies. One study showed that it may help to take this drug within 10 days of when your symptoms started. You may get better more quickly. You may not need to go to the hospital.

Before you take this treatment, tell your doctor if you:

- **Have any allergies.**
- **Have any diseases or health problems.**
- **Are pregnant or plan to get pregnant.**
- **Are breastfeeding or plan to start to breastfeed.**
- **Take any medicines like prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, or herbal products.**

Who is this drug for?

It may be a good choice for people with COVID-19 who:

- **Are age 12 or older.**
- **Weigh 88 pounds or more.**
- **Have had mild to moderate symptoms for 10 days or less.**
- **Are at high risk to get very sick from COVID-19.**

This drug is not for people who are already in the hospital with COVID-19.

Am I at high risk?

For adults, bamlanivimab may be a good choice if you:

- **Are 65 or older.**
- **Are overweight.**
- **Have diabetes, kidney disease, or problems with your immune system.**
- **Take medicine that weakens the immune system.**
- **Are age 55 or older and have heart disease, high blood pressure, or a long-term lung disease.**

For teens, it may be a good choice if you:

- Are overweight.
- Have a heart disease, sickle cell disease, or a lung disease.
- Have a serious health problem like cerebral palsy.
- Need to use a ventilator or feeding tube.

Talk with your doctor about whether it might work for you.

How will I take this drug?

You only need to get the drug one time. A nurse will put a small needle in your arm to give you the drug slowly over about one hour. You will get the treatment at the **Salud Para La Gente** clinic.

When you get any medicine through an IV there can be side effects.

You may:

- Have pain that lasts a short time while you were getting the medicine.
- Bleed a little or have bruising or swelling. You may be a little sore.
- Get an infection in the area where the needle went into the skin.

What are the side effects?

Side effects can range from mild to serious.

- You may wheeze or have trouble breathing.
- Your lips, face, or throat may swell.
- You may have flu symptoms like fever, sweating, chills, cough, sore throat, headache or muscle pain.
- You may itch or swell or have a rash or hives.
- You may feel dizzy or have low blood pressure.
- Your heartbeat may change.

Tell your nurse or doctor right away if you have any side effects while you're getting your treatment.

You can report side effects to FDA Medwatch at www.FDA.gov/medwatch or call **1-800-FDA-1088**.

Is it safe?

We really don't know yet. It is still being studied. It has been approved for emergency use only during the pandemic.

There are many things we don't know about this treatment. Unexpected side effects may happen.

- **It may make it harder for your body to fight off future COVID-19 infection.**
- **It could make a COVID-19 vaccine not work as well for you.**

We think it will help people more than it will harm them. But each person is different. Talk to your doctor about any questions you may have.

It is your choice.

You can find out more about it.

- **Talk to your doctor.**
- **Visit www.bamlanivimab.com.**
- **Go to www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov.**
- **Call your local health department.**

It is up to you whether you use this drug or not.