



SRMC Offers New COVID-19 Antibody Therapy For Immediate Release



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SALEM, OH (December 14, 2020) - Salem Regional Medical Center (SRMC) is offering new antibody treatments for COVID-19 patients, who meet specific high-risk criteria.

“Antibody therapy is a potential treatment option for those who have mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19 and are at high risk of becoming very sick from the virus,” explained Anita Hackstedde, M.D.,

SRMC’s President/CEO. “The treatment has been shown in clinical trials to reduce COVID-19 related hospitalization for those at high risk for disease progression. The antibodies mimic the immune system’s ability to fight off the virus and are

administered as an outpatient IV infusion at SRMC.”

One of the new antibody treatments available at SRMC is called Bamlanivimab, which is manufactured by Eli Lilly. This synthetic antibody drug, along with Regeneron’s Regn-COV2, were recently made available to designated hospitals across the nation through emergency use authorization from the Food & Drug Administration as a treatment for COVID-19 patients, who meet specific criteria.

According to the product manufacturers, antibody therapy should be administered as soon as possible after a positive COVID-19 test and within 10 days of the onset of symptoms. Potential candidates to receive the treatment include the elderly or those with pre-existing conditions, such as diabetes, cardiovascular or kidney disease, or those with compromised immune systems.

“The goal of this antibody therapy is to help stop progression of the virus in those with mild to moderate symptoms and prevent a hospital stay,” she said. “Potential candidates are those who are not sick enough to be hospitalized, but have pre-existing health conditions that may make them more likely to experience serious health complications from COVID-19.”

The treatment is not authorized for patients who are already hospitalized with COVID-19 or who require oxygen therapy due to the virus. Allocations of the antibody therapy have been given to specific hospitals and SRMC has received limited supplies for treatment of the virus. A physician referral is needed in order to receive antibody therapy.

“If you have tested positive for COVID-19 and are wondering if this treatment might help, talk with your doctor as soon as possible,” Dr. Hackstedde advised. “Your health care provider can discuss how the antibody treatment works, what your pre-existing conditions are and if you are a good candidate for this new therapy.”