TEXAS Health and Human Services | Texas Department of State Health Services

November 30, 2022

Dear Therapeutic Provider:

Effective immediately, bebtelovimab is no longer authorized by the FDA for use in the United States. Results from studies that are used to assess the susceptibility of viral variants to monoclonal antibodies suggest that the efficacy of bebtelovimab is reduced against the Omicron subvariants BQ.1, BQ.1.1. The FDA updated Fact Sheet for bebtelovimab on November 30, 2022 to reflect new data using authentic live BQ.1, BQ.1.1 subvariants.

There are several other therapies – Paxlovid, Veklury (remdesivir), and Lagevrio (molnupiravir) – that are expected to be effective against the BQ.1, BQ.1.1 sub-variants, and that are authorized or approved to treat certain patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 who are at high risk for progression to severe disease, including hospitalization or death. Health care providers should assess whether these treatments are right for their patients and can refer to the recently-updated NIH Guidelines for Therapeutic Management of Nonhospitalized Adults With COVID-19. Please see the US HHS Therapeutic locator for locations with these medications.

Please request Paxlovid or Lagevrio on the HPOP Provider Portal or email therapeutics@dshs.texas.gov to sign up for the Oral Antivirals if your facility has a valid Texas Pharmacy License. Make sure your reporting of administered and on-hand therapeutics is current.

You may wish to purchase Veklury (remdesivir) for patients who are unable to take one of the oral antiviral medications. Hospitals can purchase Veklury through multiple distributors through the facility's normal procurement processes (Gilead Resource Call Center at 1-800-226-2056). Non-hospitals can purchase from AmerisourceBergen (Outpatient Product Information Guide including ordering).

Visit DSHS Information for COVID-19 Therapeutics Providers for current information.