

To: Infectious Diseases, Critical Care Physicians, COVID-19 Unit Physicians, All Prescribers, Nursing, Pharmacy

From: Carina Desramaux - Pharmacy Manager

Date: February 28, 2021

RE: Tocilizumab

The TBRHSC inpatient pharmacy has a limited supply of tocilizumab for the treatment of adult (at least 18 years of age) patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 pneumonia. We are currently allocated a **very limited supply** and stored in Critical Care only. Pharmacy will communicate supply daily to Infectious Disease and Critical Care.

Ordering of tocilizumab for COVID-19 treatment is **restricted to Infectious Diseases (primary) and Critical Care physicians.**

Two (2) Physicians are required to agree on tocilizumab treatment for that patient prior to initiation of therapy.

Infectious Disease Physician must be one of the approvers when available.

When not available two Critical Care Physicians may order.

Treatment will be **delayed** until second approval received and documented.

The dose of IV tocilizumab may be determined by a weight-based dose banding:

- 800 mg if weight >90 kg;
- 600 mg if weight >65 kg and ≤90 kg;
- 400 mg if weight >40 kg and ≤65 kg;
- 8mg/kg if weight ≤40 kg

COVID-19 treatment with tocilizumab is recommended for moderately to critically ill patients who are **on optimal concomitant steroid therapy** according to the following eligibility criteria (based on Provincial COVID-19 Guidelines):

Critically ill:

- ICU-based patients requiring ventilator and/or circulatory support including high-flow nasal oxygen, CPAP, non-invasive ventilation, or mechanical ventilation; **AND** are on optimal dexamethasone therapy; **AND** are within 14 days of hospital admission

Moderately ill:

- Ward-based patients with a C-reactive protein level of at least 75 mg/L **AND** have evidence of disease progression (i.e. increasing oxygen or ventilatory requirements) despite 24-48 hours of optimal dexamethasone therapy; **AND** are within 14 days of hospital admission.

Tocilizumab Exclusion Criteria for COVID-19 Treatment:

- Known hypersensitivity to Tocilizumab
- Non-COVID confirmed co-existing infection such as latent or active TB, fungal infections, Hepatitis B, etc.
- Baseline AST or ALT greater than 5 x ULN
- Baseline platelets less than 50
- ANC less than 2
- Pre-existing condition requiring ongoing pharmacological immunosuppression
- Admitted for more than 14 days with COVID-19 signs and symptoms (or greater than 14 days of new COVID-19 diagnosis if nosocomially acquired)

Please note that these recommendations are based on the Ontario COVID-19 Drugs and Biologics Clinical Practice Guidelines Working Group (on behalf of the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table) and the Ontario ICU Medication Task Force and are based on best available data to date and may change as additional data becomes available.

Please refer to the attached tocilizumab parenteral manual for additional information.

Please contact pharmacy if any questions.

Thank you

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