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Title: COVID-19: Medicare Releases Payment Information for Monoclonal Antibody Treatment
Healthcare Type: All Types
Source: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-medicare-monoclonal-antibody-infusion-program-instruction.pdf>
Abstract: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has released billing, coding, and payment information for the infusion of the monoclonal antibody bamlanivimab.

Article Text

The November 9, 2020, Food and Drug Administration's approval of the emergency use authorization (EUA) of monoclonal antibody infusion of bamlanivimab as a treatment for COVID-19 prompted the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to issue billing and payment instructions for Medicare beneficiaries.

Patients: The infusion of bamlanivimab (manufactured by Eli Lilly and Company: LY-CoV555) must be used to treat adults and pediatric patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are at high risk for hospitalization or for progressing to severe COVID-19.

Setting: Bamlanivimab must be infused in settings with immediate access to medications for treating severe infusion reactions. The provider must also be able to activate the emergency medical system (EMS) when necessary.

Consistent with the vaccine payment methodology, for patients in skilled nursing facilities (SNF), CMS will allow providers enrolled in Medicare, such as U.S. pharmacies, infusion centers, and home health agencies, to bill Medicare directly and receive direct reimbursement for monoclonal antibody treatment of SNF residents who are Medicare beneficiaries.

Reimbursement: Medicare will pay only for the infusion of the antibody when providers receive bamlanivimab for free. The government will provide the antibody for free during its initial availability in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). Once providers begin to buy monoclonal antibody treatments, CMS plans to set the payment rate the same way it sets the rate for COVID-19 vaccines—Medicare will pay 95 percent of the average wholesale price for vaccines provided in physician offices and at reasonable cost for vaccines provided in hospital outpatient departments.

CMS has set the initial payment rate for the administration of bamlanivimab (one hour of infusion and post-administration monitoring as an outpatient) at \$309.60, geographically adjusted.

Medicare beneficiaries will pay no cost sharing in terms of copayments/coinsurance or deductibles for the monoclonal antibody infusions.

Coding: The following two HCPCS codes describe the infusion of bamlanivimab:

Q0239 Injection, bamlanivimab-xxxx, 700 mg

M0239 Intravenous infusion, bamlanivimab-xxxx, includes infusion and post administration monitoring

Billing: Providers can bill for the antibody infusion on single claims or through roster billing as long as they comply with the FDA EUA. Because the specified circumstances under which the infusion is covered are more complex than those for most vaccines, such as those for influenza, it is especially important that documentation for each patient support the medical necessity of the service if the provider uses roster billing. The name of the provider who decided to administer the infusion must be included on both single claims and roster bills.

For all Medicare Advantage plan enrollees, providers should submit claims for bamlanivimab infusion to original Medicare in 2020 and 2021.