



Memorandum

TO: Premier Health Medical Staffs, Pharmacy Staff

FROM: Joanne Morgan, System Vice President, Pharmacy Operations, Premier Health

DATE: April 10, 2020

RE: **COVID-19 Treatment Options**

As Premier Health begins treating more patients in the coming days and weeks who test positive for COVID-19, we wanted to ensure you have the latest information about treatment options for the virus that we have available.

As you are likely aware, there is currently no treatment for COVID-19 that has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. In addition, no formal studies have been completed for any medication, though there is some evidence that suggests numerous protocols might offer some benefit. Access to these medications is complicated by manufacturer back orders, as well as off-label prescribing of these medications through compassionate and investigational use.

Following are several determinations that have been made relating to treatment options available for COVID-19:

- Oseltamivir is not effective for COVID-19.
- Lopinavir/ritonavir has shown in vitro activity, but efficacy is unknown. Use is not recommended due to significant drug interactions.
- Azithromycin: routine use is not recommended. Evidence comes from retrospective data in 6 patients. Data should be interpreted with caution.
- Remdesivir: phase 3 trials are currently under way, but no additional sites are being enrolled. Compassionate use has been terminated outside of pregnancy and pediatrics. Expanded access program through Gilead at clinicaltrials.gov.
- Routine use of the following are not recommended: steroids, IVIG, ascorbic acid, zinc.

Finally, the risks and benefits of immunotherapies must be carefully assessed. Requests for immunotherapies, including eculizumab, tocilizumab, siltuximab, and sarilumab, will require approval of:

- The Infectious Disease and Critical Care provider on the case
- System CMO
- Antimicrobial stewardship pharmacist.
- PLEASE NOTE: A consult will be required if there is no infectious disease or critical care provider on the case.

In EPIC, a COVID-19 Immunomodulating Therapy Order Set has been created for immunotherapies.