Bebtelovimab No Longer Authorized to Treat COVID-19

December 30, 2022

Effective for dates of service on or after November 30, 2022, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will no longer reimburse Bebtelovimab as a pharmacy benefit. Bebtelovimab is a monoclonal antibody for the treatment of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). On November 30, 2022, the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced](#) that Bebtelovimab is not currently authorized for emergency use in the United States (U.S.) because it is not expected to neutralize Omicron subvariants BQ.1 and BQ.1.1, according to data included in the [Health Care Provider Fact Sheet](#).

[Nowcast data](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published in December 2022 estimates that the combined proportion of COVID-19 cases caused by the Omicron BQ.1 and BQ.1.1 subvariants to be above 57 percent nationally, and already above 50 percent in all individual regions but one, and data shows a sustained trend of increasing prevalence across all regions. Given that a COVID-19 infection is likely to be caused by a non-susceptible SARS-CoV-2 variant, and consistent with the terms and conditions of the Letter of Authorization, **Bebtelovimab is not currently authorized for emergency use in any U.S. region at this time**.

Consequently, providers must not submit claims for Bebtelovimab for dates of service on or after November 30, 2022, as they will be denied.

- Refer to [Variant Proportions](#) in the U.S. on the CDC website for general information.
- Refer to [Tracking Variants](#) on the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) website for California-specific information.

Providers should note that there are [several other therapies](#) that are still authorized or approved to treat patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 who are at high risk for progression to severe disease, including hospitalization or death. Medi-Cal covers these therapies which are listed below:

- Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir tablets and ritonavir tablets, co-packaged for oral use)
- Veklury (Remdesivir)
- Lagevrio (molnupiravir)
- Evusheld (tixagevimab co-packaged with cilgavimab)

For more information on services covered by Medi-Cal Rx, providers should refer to the [Medi-Cal Rx Web Portal](#).

Contact Information

You can call the Medi-Cal Rx Customer Service Center (CSC) at 1-800-977-2273, which is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year.

For other questions, email Medi-Cal Rx Education & Outreach at MediCalRxEducationOutreach@magellanhealth.com.