

BCBSAZ is piloting a monoclonal antibody referral program for high-risk members

 pages.azblue.com/Monoclonal-antibody-pilot-program-launch--NOV-2021.html

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Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Arizona (BCBSAZ) remains committed to partnering with providers to prevent unnecessary hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19. We continue to work with the state of Arizona in developing new ways to mitigate the risks and adverse outcomes of the pandemic. In this spirit, we are piloting a monoclonal antibody (mAb) outpatient referral program for our high-risk members who have tested positive for COVID-19 and have mild to moderate symptoms. Our goal is to eventually make this treatment available to more Arizonans and to minimize the impact on hospitals from any future COVID-19 surges.

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[BCBSAZ covers all authorized COVID-19 vaccines and boosters](#)

Monoclonal antibody treatment (for high-risk individuals ages 12 years and older) has received [emergency use authorization](#) from the FDA because it is proving to be effective in reducing severe COVID-19 illness and preventing hospitalization and death in the high-risk population. For more information, visit the [NIH](#), [HHS](#), and [ADHS](#) webpages about mAb therapeutics.

How the program works and how you can help patients who have tested positive for COVID-19

Our pilot program is designed to support eligible BCBSAZ high-risk members. We're using certain lab claim data to identify and reach out to our high-risk members who have recently tested positive for COVID-19. These members are then screened to determine the clinical appropriateness of outpatient

mAb treatment.

For this initial pilot program, we are working with certain mAb infusion providers who have agreed to deliver timely outpatient treatment for our high-risk members.

- The BCBSAZ Care Management team and the designated treatment providers coordinate care.
- During the intake process, treatment providers help members understand how mAb treatment works for COVID-19 and answer any questions.
- At the time of treatment, providers share the mAb manufacturer's patient information with members and offer a consultation with a pharmacist.
- PCPs identified through the intake process will be informed that their patients have received the treatment.

We are closely monitoring all data associated with the pilot and are not accepting treatment referrals from providers. If you have patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 and have mild to moderate symptoms, you can check availability for mAb treatment through the Arizona Poison Control Systems COVID-19 Hotline (1-844-542-8201) or use the online [HHS federal locator](#) search tool. For more information, see the [NIH guidance](#) for therapeutic management of non-hospitalized individuals.

Applicable lines of business

The mAb pilot program includes members with BCBSAZ fully insured plans, self-funded group plans, and Medicare Advantage plans. It does not include members with Medicare Supplement plans, Federal Employee Program® (FEP®) plans, and BlueCard® (out-of-area) plans from other BCBS Plans.

After the pilot program: Long-term vision for mAb treatment in Arizona

We expect our pilot program to contribute to the development of a more expansive initiative designed to extend mAb treatment to many more high-risk people across the state. We will keep you in the loop as more information becomes available on this initiative and treatment capacity expands.

Questions?

If you are interested in administering mAb treatment or requesting mAb products for COVID-19 treatment, please visit the [ADHS mAbs webpage](#) for more information. If you have questions about the BCBSAZ pilot program, download our [program FAQs](#), contact your [provider liaison](#), or call Provider Partnerships at 602-864-4231 or 1-800-232-2345, ext. 4231.

Our members can take a digital ID card with them wherever they go with the MyBlue AZSM mobile app.

