

What is Remdesivir and how does it work?

Remdesivir is an experimental antiviral IV medication currently under investigation for the treatment of COVID-19. Remdesivir works as an antiviral by suppressing viral replication. It was previously studied as a possible treatment for Ebola Virus.

Is Remdesivir effective in treating COVID-19?

Safety and efficacy data are not officially published. However, preliminary analysis of one trial data suggests a reduction in “time to recovery” and a potential survival benefit compared to placebo [1]. Several additional clinical trials are currently underway to determine safety, efficacy, and duration of therapy.

How can a COVID-19 positive resident get Remdesivir?

Remdesivir is not FDA approved at this time, so it is not commercially available for use in the outpatient setting and Consonus Pharmacy cannot supply Remdesivir at this time. The fastest way for a patient to get access to Remdesivir is through enrollment in a clinical trial while hospitalized (at the discretion of the provider and trial criteria).

What is a Compassionate Use Request?

Another way a patient can get Remdesivir is through a “compassionate use” request. Providers and hospitals can send requests for “compassionate use” to the manufacturer, triggering a review process by both the manufacturer and FDA to determine if use is appropriate for an individual patient. The manufacturer of Remdesivir, Gilead, is only taking requests for pregnant females or children less than 18 years old with severe disease currently.

Dr. Fauci, director of NIAID, has indicated that Remdesivir is “opening a door” to possible COVID-19 treatments. How can I stay informed of potential new treatment options and their availability to our residents?

Consonus is actively reviewing and monitoring published clinical trial data for off-label medication use for the treatment of COVID-19. Our goal is to keep you informed of treatment options and medication availability in this rapidly changing landscape.

What else can our facility do to reduce exposure risk?

Please continue to follow your facility’s Policies and Procedures for Infectious Disease Control. Consonus Clinical Consultant Pharmacists can conduct Interim Medication Regimen Reviews (iMRRs) to assist in reducing the exposure risk in COVID-19 positive facilities. Please fax a Medication Regimen Review (MRR) Request form to Consonus if a review is needed.

References:

[1] National Institute of Health. “NIH Clinical Trial Shows Remdesivir Accelerates Recovery from Advanced COVID-19”. April 29, 2020. <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/news-events/nih-clinical-trial-shows-remdesivir-accelerates-recovery-advanced-covid-19>