

FORMULARY

Isha Rana, PharmD

Medication	FDA-labeled indication	Comments/Considerations
Livtency™ (Maribavir)	Treatment for refractory/resistant CMV infection/disease	Restricted to Infectious Disease, Solid Organ Transplant (SOT), and Hematology/Oncology). Inpatient use be restricted to patients in whom adequate transitions of care have been established regarding medication acquisition in the outpatient setting
Briviact™ (Brivaracetam)	Treatment of focal onset seizure in patients 16 years and older	Remain non-formulary. Patients may continue to utilize therapy as a patient's own supplied medication
Aduhelm™ (Aducanumab-awwa)	Treatment of Alzheimer's disease with mild cognitive impairment or dementia	NOT to be added to formulary

Additional Formulary Actions:

[Granulocyte Colony Stimulating Factors \(G-CSF\) therapeutic interchanges](#) were reviewed for triennial updates and the formulary preferred items are Zarxio® and Fulphila® for the preferred short and long-acting G-CSF agents respectively.

Have a medication needing Houston Methodist formulary review? [Click here and complete a request form](#)

MEDICATION POLICY & ORDERING

Amaris Fuentes, PharmD

3% Sodium Chloride Bolus Location Based Restriction

To ensure an appropriate level of care for administration of bolus doses of hypertonic saline (3% NaCl), [System PCPS 126](#) was updated to limit administration to ED & ICU areas.

Tolvaptan 24-hour Dosing Interval

[System PCPS 126](#) was updated reflecting a 24-hour minimum dosing interval which is also built in Epic to improve safety of tolvaptan use.

Continuous Neuromuscular Blockade Continuous Quality Improvement

To improve the safety of neuromuscular blockade ordering, titration, and monitoring, the following changes were adopted. (1) orders will expire after 72 hours ensuring further review. (2) MAR based options for documentation of BIS & Train of Four (TOF) will be implemented. (3) Orders for TOF titration or ventilation-based assessments and options for sedation agent ordering within neuromuscular blocker order set will be available. (4) Additional staff education of appropriate sedation before use and for all the above changes for staff involved with this therapy.

MEDICATION ORDERING

Amaris Fuentes, PharmD

Baclofen Pump Refill

To support clear orders and instructions, a baclofen pump refill order will be created. Options for appropriate refill kits and doses will be provided.

DigiFab® Order Set Update

Enhancements to the digoxin immune fab (DigiFab®) order set for digoxin reversal will include dose defaults for acute ingestions and guidance on selecting doses for chronic toxicity.

Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen (Norco®) Dose Button Updates

To optimize hydrocodone/acetaminophen ordering options and reduce narcotic diversion risk, hydrocodone/acetaminophen dose buttons will be updated to reflect use of 1 tablet alone.

Lithium Use Quality Improvement

Opportunities were noted for improving laboratory monitoring related to lithium therapy. Moving forward, the lithium order set will include appropriate monitoring and prompts to use the order set even with home continuation therapy orders. Updates to the lithium related policies and procedures along with enhanced Vigilanz pharmacotherapy alerting will be implemented.



MEDSAFETY MATTERS!

Amaris Fuentes, PharmD

ISMP Medication Safety Newsletter Links: [Acute Care Newsletter](#) & [NurseERR Newsletter](#)

Safety Considerations & Significant Drug-Drug Interactions with Paxlovid Therapy

Paxlovid was recently granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) as an oral therapy for COVID-19. Full details of the are available in the [EUA](#). ISMP described [safety considerations with Paxlovid](#) regarding dosing of therapy in renal dysfunction, appropriate dispensing of product, and the significant number of drug-drug interactions.

Paxlovid is a protease inhibitor combination therapy containing nirmatrelvir co-packaged with ritonavir. These agents are VERY POTENT inhibitors of CYP3A4 which can result in significant drug interactions with a wealth of therapies contraindicated (see Table 1 of EUA). A [reference sheet](#) was created for common agents that are contraindicated or require significant adjustment to therapy. For example, various anti-arrhythmics are contraindicated for risk of severe bradycardia and toxicity and agents such as tacrolimus and cyclosporine require holding or significant dose decreases while using Paxlovid.

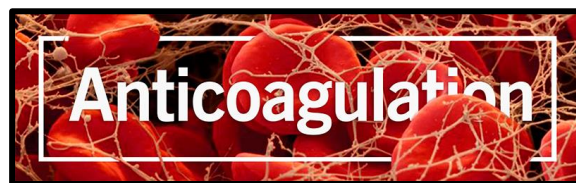
“Very High” drug-drug interactions are displayed in Epic for therapies contraindicated with Paxlovid as well as other agents requiring substantial therapy adjustments. Please review [all warnings](#) to fully assess patient medication therapy with use of this potent CYP3A4 enzyme inhibitor. Patients referred for treatment to our Houston Methodist outpatient covid therapy service be interviewed by our pharmacy team for drug interactions and critical assessments relayed to providers when needed as an additional safety measure.

Abrupt Discontinuation of Clozapine Therapy

With a recent update of the clozapine REMS program, issues arose with patient access to maintenance clozapine therapy and abrupt discontinuation. Withholding therapy for 2 days or greater and reintroduction of dosing without dose escalation, increases risk for significant cardiac events. Reminders for review of therapy compliance will be added to Epic to ensure therapy is continued or reintroduced safely.

ANTICOAGULATION USE SAFETY

A medication use review of HM patients compared the safety, efficacy and efficiency of parenteral UFH vs. alternative anticoagulation for therapeutic anticoagulation indications. The report found frequent situations where non-UFH anticoagulation therapies such as subcutaneous enoxaparin may be utilized conferring an improved efficiency of care for patients compared to UFH that requires more regular titrations and blood draws.



As such, the following changes will be introduced in the pharmacy UFH consult service.

1. Epic's ACS and DVT/PE order sets will be updated to state: "Patient may be eligible for enoxaparin if time to procedure is >24 hours and renal function is stable". The order will incorporate an option for providers to select the pharmacy consult to manage *therapeutic enoxaparin*.
2. The Epic ACS order set will list enoxaparin orders above the UFH order.
3. The updated pharmacist heparin maintenance consult note will include and assessment on the readiness of a patients to meet criteria for alternative anticoagulation.
4. Pharmacists will contact providers to discuss implementing alternative therapy if appropriate.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

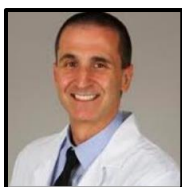
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ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP

COVID Treatments Updates

The covid-19 outpatient treatment referral order (Ref1001) now contains options for ordering either monoclonal antibody therapy administered at our covid infusion clinics – or – oral antiviral agents to be dispensed by HM Specialty Pharmacy and delivered to the patient’s home. The combined referral form instructs pharmacy to order only one of the treatments in accordance with [NIH prioritization](#) if multiple options are selected. Providers are guided through the unique qualifications for each therapy’s EUA and respective precautions within the epic referral order.

HM has received ample supply of monoclonal antibody therapy in relation to referrals allowing use in all adult patients meeting the EUA criteria. NOTE: the newly EUA approved therapy, [bebtelovimab](#), will be available for treatment in the coming weeks as another option further increasing the number of patients we are able to treat. Bebtelovimab is administered as a 30-second IV Injection reducing the time for the procedure, though patients will continue to be monitored for 1 hour after the injection. However, bebtelovimab has a 7-day window for treatment from the start of symptoms which is shorter than the 10-day window for sotrovimab requiring timely referral and treatment.



Antimicrobial Stewardship Education Opportunity:

On March 1st at 8AM, Dr. Brad Spellberg will be speaking at Internal Medicine Grand Rounds on “Short Course Antibiotics”, a topic he has [published](#) on widely. This program is part of the series of educational activities HM provides promoting antibiotic stewardship best practices. Link here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81499604685>

Sanford Guide Access Available to all HM Employees

The HM Antimicrobial Stewardship Blue Book content is paired with the Sanford Guide content and available free of charge to all employees. Access the resource:

- On mobile app: Register at <https://register.sanfordguide.com/> from any computer on our network
- On the web: Visit <https://webedition.sanfordguide.com/> from any computer on the network

A tutorial may be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xy4bvgZhotQ>

For technical assistance, contact [Sanford Guide directly](#): 540.987.9480 (M-F, 9-5 Eastern)

NOTE: The Updated 2022 HM Antibiograms will be available on these platforms in the next month.



NEWSLETTER STAFF

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