

FAQs for Patients

Tixagevimab and Cilgavimab (Evusheld) for Prevention of COVID-19

What is Evusheld?

Evusheld is a combination of two antibodies against the COVID-19 virus. It is available to individuals who may be unable to fully generate antibodies on their own. It is approved to prevent infection, not to treat existing infection, and is expected to provide protection for approximately six months. **Evusheld is NOT an alternative to COVID-19 vaccination. Albertans are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated against COVID-19.**

Who is eligible to receive Evusheld?

The following patients are eligible for Evusheld:

- Solid organ transplant patients who meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - Lung transplant
 - Received B cell depleting therapy (e.g. rituximab), T cell depletion (e.g. thymoglobulin, alemtuzumab), or belatacept within the past 6 months
 - Any solid organ transplant in first six months post-transplant
 - 60 years of age or older
- Stem Cell Transplant or CAR-T therapy within the past 12 months
- Hematologic malignancy (blood cell cancer) on B cell depleting agent within the past 12 months
- Moderate or Severe Immunodeficiency i.e. patients who have primary immune defects known to be associated with impaired antibody production and function. Examples of such conditions include CVID, SADs, XLA, Job's Syndrome; DiGeorge Syndrome
- Secondary immunodeficiency due to treatment with a B-cell depleting therapy
- Secondary hypogammaglobulinemia (IgG less than 5g/L) with a history of recurrent infections
- Unable to take vaccination due to a documented allergy or anaphylactic reaction to the COVID-19 vaccination

Patients must also: (i) weigh at least 40 kg and be 12 years of age or older; (ii) not have a current COVID-19 infection, or a recent COVID-19 exposure (within eight days); and, (iii) be more than 14 days since their last COVID-19 vaccination or recovery from a COVID-19 infection. Additionally, it is recommended that individuals wait at least 14 days after Evusheld administration before receiving COVID-19 vaccination.

What are the potential benefits of Evusheld?

Evusheld may lower your risk of developing symptomatic COVID-19. In one study of Evusheld, over six months, three out of every 1,000 patients who received Evusheld later developed symptomatic COVID-19, compared to 18 out of every 1,000 patients who received a placebo.

I heard about safety concerns with Evusheld regarding the heart. Is that true?

In one study of Evusheld, serious cardiac events (e.g. heart attack, abnormal heart rhythms) occurred slightly more often in those who received Evusheld (six of every 1,000) compared with those receiving placebo (two of every 1,000). These events occurred in patients with risk factors for heart disease. It is not clear if these events were caused by Evusheld, or if they would have happened despite the medication. There was no clear link between when Evusheld was given and when these events occurred. Speak to your physician if you have further questions or concerns about this issue.

How is Evusheld administered?

Evusheld is given as two injections into the side of each buttock muscle. It is administered at dedicated specialty clinics in Calgary Zone and Edmonton Zone, and periodically available at clinics in Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray, Red Deer, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat.

What dose will I receive?

The dosing recommendations are as follows:

You will be prescribed 600mg if:

- You have not previously received Evusheld
- It has been three months or more since you received a low dose of Evusheld (300mg)
- It has been six months or more since you received a high dose of Evusheld (600mg)

You will be prescribed 300mg if it has been less than three months since you received low dose Evusheld (300mg).

How can I get a prescription for Evusheld?

Patients can call 1-844-343-0971 to be assessed for Evusheld or their specialist in transplant or hematology/oncology to discuss potential use of Evusheld.

For more information on COVID-19 outpatient treatments in Alberta, visit ahs.ca/covidopt.