

MEMO

To: Medical Staff, Nursing Staff, Pharmacy Staff

From: Department of Pharmacy Services

Subject: Pharmacist COVID Drug Monitoring Standing Order (Remdesivir)

Date: May 20, 2020

Situation: There is a need to update the pharmacist drug monitoring standing order for remdesivir.

Background: COVID-19 positive patients require close monitoring of their medications. Currently there is an existing YNHHS Pharmacist COVID Drug Monitoring Standing Order for COVID-19 patients.

Remdesivir has not been approved by the FDA for the treatment of COVID-19. However, it's currently authorized by the FDA under and Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). The FDA recommends performing hepatic laboratory testing at baseline and daily during remdesivir administration and not initiating remdesivir in patients with hepatic dysfunction [aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT) ≥ 5 times the upper lower limit of normal (ULN)] at baseline. In addition, they recommend discontinuing remdesivir in patients who develop AST/ALT ≥ 5 times the ULN (may be restarted when AST/ALT is < 5 times the ULN).

Assessment: There is a need to ensure that appropriate liver function testing is ordered on patients receiving remdesivir

Recommendation: For patients receiving remdesivir:

- Pharmacist can order liver function test (AST/ALT) if no liver function tests or comprehensive metabolic panel was ordered (baseline labs in the last 24 hours and daily while patient is receiving remdesivir).
- Pharmacist can enter the order as a "Standing order: cosign required".
- Pharmacist can add the lab onto an existing specimen or cluster the lab with existing lab draws.
- Pharmacist to discuss any abnormal level (AST/ALT ≥ 5 times ULN) with ordering provider.

Approved by:

YNHHS COVID-19 Inpatient Care Action Team, YNHHS COVID-19 Critical Care Action Team, YNHHS Pharmacy Drug Use Policy COVID-19 Planning Committee

