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WakeMed Opens More Treatment Sites, Expands Access to Monoclonal Antibody Therapy with Support from NCDHHS, HHS

RALEIGH, N.C., (October 6, 2021) –WakeMed will expand access to monoclonal antibody (mAb) treatment for high-risk patients with COVID-19 to prevent disease progression, reduce hospitalizations, and increase access to the therapy in underserved communities.

Working in collaboration with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), WakeMed will open four new infusion sites in the coming days.

For people who are at high risk for developing severe COVID-19 illness and have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, this promising mAb treatment has been shown to help prevent acute illness and hospitalization by up to 70 percent.

This collaborative effort allows for supplemental infusion capacity at four sites. The WakeMed North Physicians Office Pavilion clinic at 10010 Falls of Neuse Road in Raleigh is now accepting patients. The following sites will open in the weeks ahead.

- WakeMed Cary Medical District – 222 Ashville Avenue (behind Cary Hospital).
- WakeMed Raleigh Campus – 3000 New Bern Avenue (surface lot beside P5 parking deck)
- WakeMed Garner Healthplex – 400 US Highway 70 East (surface lot area near helipad)

Once all sites are fully launched, WakeMed will have the capacity to provide mAbs treatment to an additional 630 patients per week.

“Over the past year, we have seen truly inspiring results from the mAbs infusion therapy and are now excited to be able to offer this treatment to even more high-risk patients in our community,” said WakeMed Associate Chief Medical Officer and critical care physician, David Kirk, MD.

“Dramatically expanding access to this treatment will offer hundreds more people each week a better chance to avoid being hospitalized with COVID and may even save their lives.”

If administered within 10 days of onset of COVID-19 symptoms, the one-time infusion therapy, made up of synthetic proteins designed to mimic the body’s own immune response, is highly effective in neutralizing the virus and preventing symptoms from worsening.

“If you test positive for COVID and think you may qualify for the mAbs infusion, please contact your doctor or call the mAb Line directly as soon as possible to see if this treatment is a good option for you,” he continued.

To confirm eligibility for the treatment and book an appointment, patients should call the mAb Infusion Line at 919-350-9590.

"As COVID-19 cases remain high in North Carolina, it is important to make sure our community has access to proper prevention and treatment, such as early access to potentially lifesaving monoclonal antibody therapy," said Dr. Elizabeth Tilson, NCDHHS State Health Director and Chief Medical Officer. "Of course, vaccines remain the best protection from COVID-19 related hospitalization and death and are our fastest way to end this pandemic."

On March 17, 2021, HHS announced it was investing \$150 million to increase access to mAb therapy for high-risk patients in underserved and disadvantaged communities across the country. WakeMed is the second health system in North Carolina to join this national initiative and a growing list of mAbs therapy providers supported by KPMG and sponsored by HHS as part of the federal effort to help end COVID-19 and improve health equity.

In addition to the WakeMed locations, over 65 infusion sites have now been established or expanded under this initiative in Landover, MD; San Diego, CA; Detroit, MI; Barnstable County, MA; Houston, TX; Beckley, WV; Worcester, MA; western Michigan; southern Missouri, northeast South Carolina, southern Mississippi, northern Mississippi, central Mississippi, North Carolina, south central Louisiana, Washington, D.C., several regions of Alabama, and south western Tennessee.

The therapy is the first COVID-19 treatment granted emergency use authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for outpatient use. A Phase 3 clinical trial showed that the antibody therapy reduced the risk of hospitalization or death by up to 70% in patients who received the drug intravenously compared to those who received a placebo.

Please call the mAb Infusion Line at 919-350-9590 to see if you qualify. Treatment is offered regardless of immigration status, health insurance coverage, or ability to pay. The treatment is free for individuals who do not have health insurance. Those who do may be subject to copays, coinsurance or deductibles depending on their coverage.

About WakeMed: Serving the community since 1961, WakeMed is a not-for-profit health care system founded and based in Raleigh, N.C. WakeMed exists to improve the health and well-being of our community by providing outstanding and compassionate care to all. WakeMed's 976-bed system comprises a network of facilities throughout the Triangle area, including three full-service hospitals, seven emergency departments, a dedicated Children's Hospital and Rehabilitation Hospital, more than 80 physician offices and Wake County's only Level I Trauma Center. WakeMed's mission-driven team includes more than 10,000 employees, 1,500 volunteers and 1,300 affiliated physicians, along with the more than 580 physicians and providers with WakeMed Physician Practices – all representing the best minds and the biggest hearts and the finest quality in health care and community health. For more information, visit wakemed.org or follow WakeMed on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About Crush COVID: A treatment for COVID-19 is here and is available in every state at hundreds of locations across the country. With the help of KPMG, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), state and local health departments, and local hospitals and health clinics, eligible patients will have increased access to monoclonal antibody therapy (mAbs) treatment in a growing number of underserved and disadvantaged communities through this initiative. Authorized by the FDA, mAbs are available to high risk patients who have either tested

positive for COVID-19 or are unvaccinated and have been exposed to the virus. To learn more about eligibility and find a treatment location near you, visit crushcovid.com.