



May 8, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pence
The White House
Office of the Vice President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Transparent, Equitable & Data Driven Distribution of Remdesivir

Dear Vice President Pence:

On behalf of the American Society of Transplantation (AST), representing a majority of the nation's medical professionals engaged in the field of solid organ transplantation, we applaud your leadership and efforts to combat and defeat the COVID-19 pandemic. As you continue to address this evolving public health crisis, the solid organ transplant community as well as the many immunocompromised patients that we serve, respectfully request that the federal government engage in a fair and equitable distribution of Remdesivir now that it has been authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use in the treatment of patients hospitalized due to COVID-19.

As you know, on May 1, 2020, the FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) to expand the use of Remdesivir for patients across the country suffering with severe COVID-19. Although this is a positive development for patient care, the inventory of this medication is likely to fall short of demand given that tens of thousands of patients per month are projected to require hospitalization nationwide due to COVID-19. A majority of these hospitalized patients have acute severe disease and will meet the FDA criteria for treatment with Remdesivir.

As healthcare providers on the front lines of this battle, AST believes strongly that:

- The plan for distributing Remdesivir should be transparent and based on state and regional COVID-19 case data and hospitalization rates;
- Supplies of Remdesivir should be distributed on a regional basis with equitable distribution within the region to states and within states to hospitals;
- Distribution data on Remdesivir (under the EUA) should be publicly available;
- Data from the Adaptive COVID-19 Treatment Trial (ACTT) should be publicly released so that hospitals with a limited supply have the best possible data to inform how to distribute it among their patients;

NATIONAL OFFICE

American Society of Transplantation
1120 Route 73, Suite 200 • Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
856.439.9986 • Fax: 856.581.9604
info@myAST.org • myAST.org

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

William Applegate, Director of Government Relations
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP
1155 F Street, NW • Washington, DC 20004
202.258.4989 • bill.applegate@bcplaw.com

- The EUA application required for each COVID-19 patient should be streamlined to require only the minimum amount of data and information required to effectively and safely consider the request for emergency use, thereby allowing physicians to spend the much-needed time at the bedside instead of completing paperwork.

As the Administration continues to move forward in addressing the pandemic, our community of medical professions and patients implores you to engage in a fair and equitable distribution of Remdesivir.

The AST and broader transplant community are working together to create, disseminate, and constantly update resources to better educate our healthcare providers and our immunocompromised transplant patients, who are at a much greater risk for COVID-19 infection than the general population. The AST looks forward to continuing to work closely with the Administration, Congress, and state and local leaders to ensure that health care providers and patients across the country have access to the tools necessary to defeat this global health crisis.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership and steadfast resolve to win this battle. As always, please do not hesitate to let us know how we may best support you in this urgent effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Emily Blumberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Emily A. Blumberg, M.D.
President