



Pharmacy Pearls

Continuation of Biologics/Immunomodulators in COVID-19

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Below are recommendations from several specialty societies regarding the continuation of biologics/immunomodulator medications in response to COVID-19. While decisions about continuing medications should be made on a case-by-case basis, it is important to remind patients that maintaining control of chronic conditions is vital as comorbid conditions increase the risk of worse outcomes if infected with COVID-19.

Society Guidelines

Allergy and Asthma Network ([Refer to details here](#))

- Patients should continue taking their controller medications and follow CDC guidelines for those at risk for serious illness

American Academy of Dermatology ([Refer to details here](#))

- Patients currently on biologic therapy:
 - No positive COVID-19 test/symptoms: There is insufficient evidence to recommend discontinuation of biologics at this time and providers should weigh risks vs. benefits on a patient-by-patient basis
 - Positive COVID-19 test: Discontinue or postpone biologic until the patient recovers
- Patients being considered for biologic therapy: weigh risks vs. benefits and consider deferring biologic therapy for patients at higher risk (e.g., age 60+, patients with CVD, DM, severe HTN, etc.)

American College of Gastroenterology ([Refer to details here](#))

- Patients on immunosuppressive drugs for IBD and autoimmune hepatitis should continue taking their medications as the risk of disease flare outweighs the chance of contracting COVID-19
- Patients should follow the CDC guidelines for those at high risk for serious illness, linked above

American College of Rheumatology ([Refer to details here](#))

- There are no data on the influence of these medications on COVID-19, but providers should follow their current practice for interrupting therapy during episodes of infection
- Patients should not discontinue their medications without talking to their healthcare providers first

National MS Society ([Refer to details here](#))

- Patients with MS should follow CDC guidelines for those at high risk for serious illness with COVID-19, [here](#) and [here](#)
- Patients with MS should continue disease modifying therapies (DMT) and discuss risk with their healthcare provider
- Prior to starting DMT, patients and providers should consider specific risks (e.g., age, comorbidities, location) and benefits