

**Script for verbal consent for COVID-19 patients being started on a biologic outside of a clinical trial:**

People with the COVID-19 infection can sometimes develop inflammation that causes problems with their breathing. For this reason, when we find high levels of inflammation in your blood and that you are having difficulty with your breathing, we may use medicines that can help combat that inflammation if it is safe to do so in you. We have a team of experts that have carefully considered all of the information we have so far about the best approaches to treat these issues in COVID-19, and we make adjustments to our treatments as we get newer information. These medications are generally considered safe, though any medication that lowers inflammation may have potential risk of other infections; we would have to use other medications to treat an infection if that were to occur. You will only receive a short course of this medication, which makes the risk of infection less likely.

**Additional patient information on specific agents:**

Tocilizumab (Actemra) is a biologic medication currently approved to treat certain types of arthritis and other inflammatory diseases. Biologic medications are proteins designed by humans that affect the immune system. Tocilizumab can lower the ability of your immune system to fight infections. Patients with tuberculosis before starting on tocilizumab can have worsening of their TB. Allergic reactions to intravenous tocilizumab infusions can occur, which can include symptoms such as fever and chills, but these are rare. A rare complication seen with tocilizumab use is bowel perforation, or a hole in the bowel wall. If you have a history of diverticulitis or develop abdominal pain or bloody bowel movements, you should let us know immediately.

Use same script for Sarilumab (Kevzara) as for Tocilizumab (Actemra).

Anakinra (Kineret) is a biologic drug that helps to decrease inflammation in [rheumatoid arthritis](#) and other inflammatory diseases. Biologic medications are proteins designed by humans that affect the immune system. The most common side effects are injection site reactions such as redness, itching, rash, and pain. Bruising or bleeding also can occur, but it is rare. Headaches and low white blood cell counts also can occur, but these are very rare. Anakinra can increase the risk of infections. We will monitor you closely for any signs of infection.