DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

To the clinical investigators, trial staff, and institutional leadership supporting the Clinical Trial of COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma in Outpatients (C3PO) trial,

We are writing on behalf of the National Institutes of Health and the United States Government's Operation Warp Speed, dedicated to accelerating the development of COVID-19 therapeutics. COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma (CCP) is among a number of therapeutics under evaluation for the treatment of COVID-19. As you know, CCP has in general demonstrated an acceptable safety profile and promising activity data, but further study is required to establish efficacy, understand the dose-response relationship, and inform treatment guidelines. While the FDA announced issuance of an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for convalescent plasma on August 23, 2020, the announcement made it clear that randomized trials are urgently needed. This language was included in the EUA:

Given that the clinical evidence supporting this EUA was not obtained from prospective, well-controlled randomized clinical trials (RCTs), additional RCTs are needed. Convalescent plasma should not be considered a new standard of care for the treatment of patients with COVID-19. Ongoing clinical trials of convalescent plasma should not be amended based on the issuance of the EUA. Providers are encouraged to enroll patients in those ongoing clinical trials.

The Clinical Trial of COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma in Outpatients (C3PO) is now more important than ever and is critical to progressing our understanding of CCP as a treatment for the disease. The trial is evaluating whether we can treat patients in the outpatient setting and prevent progression to severe disease, obviating the need for hospitalization in some patients. Rapid implementation and completion of this trial is of high importance and priority for NIH and Operation Warp Speed. As a potential clinical trial site, we ask for your maximum support of this trial to the degree possible including:

- Prioritization of this trial for rapid contractual and institutional approvals
- Provision of space and personnel to facilitate monoclonal antibody or placebo infusions
- Dedication of rapid testing resources as available

Thank you in advance for your support of this important effort. Please refer any questions regarding the clinical trial to the Principal Investigator, Clifton W. Callaway, MD, PhD, callawaycw@upmc.edu.

Janet Woodcock, MD
Operation Warp Speed

Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD
Director, National Institutes of Health

P.S. Other critical trials are testing the safety and efficacy of the Regeneron cocktail of monoclonal antibodies REGN-COV2 in outpatients and inpatients. If that trial is also enrolling at your site, please consider it a high priority.