

Clinical trial begins for new COVID-19 treatment

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from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to conduct [clinical trials](#) of vaccines, treatments, and diagnostics for known and emergent infectious threats. URMC is one of only nine VTEU sites in the U.S.

Provided by University of Rochester

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The University of Rochester Medical Center (URMC) is participating in a NIH-sponsored clinical trial to evaluate the safety and efficacy of the investigational antiviral drug remdesivir in hospitalized adults diagnosed with COVID-19. The study is being led by Ann R. Falsey, M.D., and Angela R. Branche, M.D., with the URMC Vaccine Trials and Evaluation Unit (VTEU).

Remdesivir, developed by Gilead Sciences, is a broad-spectrum antiviral treatment that has been previously tested in humans with the Ebola virus and has shown promise in animal models for treating Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and [severe acute respiratory syndrome](#) (SARS), which are caused by other coronaviruses. It is believed that the drug blocks a particular enzyme that is required for viral replication.

The [double-blind, placebo-controlled trial](#) will involve acute COVID-19 inpatients at Strong Memorial Hospital. The study may be expanded over time to include additional investigational antiviral treatments.

The URMC VTEU was established with support

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