



Christopher Grunseich, MD
Neurogenetics Branch, NINDS
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD 20892

12/23/2021

Re: COVID-19 risk status and spinal and bulbar muscular atrophy

To whom this may concern,

I am a staff clinician at the National Institutes of Health and have evaluated patients with spinal and bulbar muscular atrophy (SBMA) in multiple clinical studies. SBMA is a slowly progressive neuromuscular disease that typically results in weakness of the extremities and difficulty with swallowing and controlling secretions. Patients with SBMA may also experience shortness of breath. COVID-19 infection can place SBMA patients at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19. As a result of this risk status, SBMA patients with a COVID-19 infection should have access to COVID-19 therapeutics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christopher Grunseich".

Christopher Grunseich, MD
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NINDS, National Institutes of Health
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