



## For Health Professionals Who Care For Cancer Patients

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- **Benefit Drug List – New Protocols:** Bicalutamide, Buserelin, Cisplatin, Cyclophosphamide, Dactinomycin, Degarelix, Dexamethasone, Docetaxel, Doxorubicin, Etoposide, Flutamide, Goserelin, Leuprolide, Nilutamide, Pomalidomide, Vincristine **Revised Protocols:** Carboplatin, Paclitaxel **Deleted Protocols:** Cyclophosphamide, Doxorubicin, Fluorouracil
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## EDITOR'S CHOICE

### NEW PROGRAMS

The Provincial Systemic Therapy Program has approved the following programs effective 1 May 2015:

**Pomalidomide for Multiple Myeloma (UMYPOMDEX)** – Pomalidomide with low dose dexamethasone will now be available for patients who are refractory or intolerant to bortezomib and lenalidomide. In one phase III trial comparing it to high dose dexamethasone, pomalidomide with low dose dexamethasone was associated with increased overall survival (12.7 vs. 8.1 mos, HR 0.74) and progression free survival (4.0 vs. 1.9 mos, HR 0.48) [*San Miguel. Lancet Oncol 2013;14(11):1055*] Worsening of fatigue and emotional function (feeling tense, worrying, irritable or depressed) were also delayed.

Common grade 3 toxicities associated with this new regimen include neutropenia, anemia, thrombocytopenia, pneumonia, bone pain and fatigue. Although neutropenia was more common than with high dose dexamethasone, there was no increase in the incidence of febrile neutropenia. Due to the risk of thromboembolic events, patients should be on prophylactic aspirin. Since pomalidomide is an analogue of thalidomide, similar precautions must be maintained to avoid potential teratogenic toxicity (see [www.RevAid.ca](http://www.RevAid.ca)). A BCCA Compassionate Access Program (CAP) approval is required for each patient.

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Note that patients who are currently on the manufacturer's Pomalyst Access Program will need to obtain CAP approval to have pomalidomide covered by BCCA.

**Chemohormonal Therapy for Prostate Cancer (GUPDOCADT)** – Androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) is the current standard therapy for patients with newly diagnosed, castration sensitive metastatic prostate cancer. ADT can be achieved medically with LHRH agonists or antagonist alone or with antiandrogens (total androgen blockade), or surgical castration. The new GUPDOCADT protocol will include addition of docetaxel chemotherapy to ADT based on results from a phase III trial [Sweeney. ASCO 2014 abstract LBA2]. Improved overall survival (49.2 vs 32.2 mos, HR 0.60) was shown in patients with high volume disease, defined as having visceral metastases or at least four bone metastases.

**Doxorubicin for Endometrial and Uterine Malignancies (GOENDD, GOSAD)** – These new palliative single-agent regimens are used for patients of good performance status and with advanced uterine sarcoma, epithelial endometrial cancer, malignant mixed Müllerian tumour or carcinosarcoma.

**Vincristine, Dactinomycin and Cyclophosphamide for Rhabdomyosarcoma (SAVDC)** – This regimen is similar to SAVDCM except that it does not contain mesna as a cytoprotection for the bladder. Therefore, it is indicated only in patients with no pelvic primaries and who would not receive radiotherapy to the bladder.

**Cisplatin and Etoposide for Merkel Cell Carcinoma (SMMCCPE)** – Merkel cell carcinoma is a rare, aggressive cutaneous tumour. This combination chemotherapy can offer disease control with potential survival benefit in patients with recurrent or metastatic disease.

## NEW BCCA WEBSITE

This was launched on 21 April and it is best viewed on Google Chrome or Internet Explorer (version 8 or higher). To check what browser is on your computer, visit <http://whatbrowser.org/>

- The website homepage remains as [www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca).
- Information for health professionals is still in a section titled Health Professionals ([www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals)). Key information for patients and families will be found in one of two sections: Our Services ([www.bccancer.bc.ca/our-services](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/our-services)) and Health Info ([www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-info](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-info)).
- Most sections have new URLs as the overall website structure has changed. Therefore, bookmarks and favourites will need to be updated. The new URLs for the most commonly used website resources are listed at the last page of this newsletter. For more details, see the April issue of the [Systemic Therapy Update](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/systemic-therapy/systemic-therapy-update) ([www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/systemic-therapy/systemic-therapy-update](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/systemic-therapy/systemic-therapy-update)).

More details about the new website are available at: [www.bccancer.bc.ca/about/news-stories/news/new-website-launched](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/about/news-stories/news/new-website-launched).

### NEW DRUG

**Pomalidomide** monograph and patient handout have been developed with expert review provided by Dr. Kevin Song (Hematologist) and Linda Hamata (Pharmacist) from the BCCA Lymphoma Tumour Group.

Pomalidomide (POMALYST®) is an analogue of thalidomide. It is teratogenic and only available through a controlled distribution program called RevAid® ([www.RevAid.ca](http://www.RevAid.ca)). Physicians and pharmacists must register with the program to prescribe and dispense pomalidomide. Patients receiving pomalidomide must also register with RevAid® and be able to understand the conditions of the program (e.g., not sharing the medication, regular blood tests, aware of the common side effects).

Common side effects include myelosuppression, fatigue, infections, and dyspnea. There is also a risk for thromboembolic events and therefore prophylactic antithrombotic therapy (e.g., aspirin) may be recommended.

**Etoposide Phosphate** interim monograph has been developed to alert that it is not interchangeable with the regular etoposide formulation. Etoposide phosphate is only available via the Health Canada Special Access Programme. Although it has similar pharmacokinetics and dosing as the regular etoposide formulation, it does not contain polysorbate 80, an excipient which has been associated with the hypersensitivity reactions seen with the regular etoposide formulation.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF REVISED MONOGRAPHS AND HANDOUTS

**Vemurafenib:** the monograph and patient handout have been revised in response to Health Canada alerts and post-marketing reports regarding:

- Development of non-cutaneous malignancies and accelerated progression of cancers related to RAS mutation
- Severe dermatologic drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS syndrome)
- Liver injury and pancreatitis
- Febrile neutropenia
- Panniculitis

#### Other changes

- **Alemtuzumab:** supplier and access information added under Supply and Storage
- **Pazopanib:** blood pressure monitoring and hypertension management added to patient information handout

## BENEFIT DRUG LIST

### NEW PROGRAMS

The following programs have been added to the [Benefit Drug List](#) effective 1 May 2015:

Protocol Title	Protocol Code	Benefit Status
<i>Doxorubicin</i> for use in patients with advanced endometrial cancer	GOENDD	Class I
<i>Doxorubicin</i> for use in patients with advanced uterine sarcoma	GOSAD	Class I
First-line treatment of castration sensitive, metastatic prostate cancer using <i>docetaxel</i> and androgen deprivation therapy (LHRH agonist [ <i>buserelin, goserelin, leuprolide</i> ] or LHRH antagonist [ <i>degarelix</i> ] with or without antiandrogen [ <i>bicalutamide, flutamide, nilutamide</i> ])	GUPDOCADT	Class I
Therapy of multiple myeloma using <i>pomalidomide</i> with <i>dexamethasone</i>	UMYPOMDEX	Restricted
Adjuvant therapy for rhabdomyosarcoma using <i>vincristine, dactinomycin</i> and <i>cyclophosphamide</i>	SAVDC	Class I
Treatment of recurrent or metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma with <i>cisplatin</i> and <i>etoposide</i>	SMMCCPE	Class I

### REVISED PROGRAMS

The following program has been revised on the [Benefit Drug List](#) effective 1 May 2015:

Protocol Title	Protocol Code	Benefit Status
Neoadjuvant treatment of esophageal and gastroesophageal carcinomas using <i>carboplatin, paclitaxel</i> and radiation therapy	GIENACTRT	Class I (Previously Class II)

### DELETED PROGRAMS

The following programs have been removed from the [Benefit Drug List](#) effective 1 May 2015:

Protocol Title	Protocol Code
Adjuvant therapy for breast cancer using <i>cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, fluorouracil</i> and filgrastim	BRAJCAFG
Adjuvant therapy for breast cancer using oral <i>cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin</i> and <i>fluorouracil</i>	BRAJCAFPO
Therapy for inflammatory breast cancer using <i>cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin</i> and <i>fluorouracil</i>	BRINFCAF

## COMMUNITIES ONCOLOGY NETWORK

### REIMBURSEMENT FOR PURCHASES OF BACILLUS CALMETTE-GUÉRIN (BCG) ONCOTICE® VACCINE

As a result of the ongoing challenges with the HealthPRO contracted supplier for OncoTICE® vaccine:

- Health Authorities should submit any claims from **1 April 2015** onwards for OncoTICE® through the Online System for Cancer drugs Adjudication and Reimbursement (OSCAR) at the Merck acquisition price and not the Hospira contract price.
- Health Authorities will need to submit to HealthPRO by **31 July 2015** for any cost differentials between the acquisition price and contract price for purchases from 1 January through 31 May 2015.
- BCCA will reimburse the remaining cost differentials not covered by Hospira and the OSCAR claims submissions invoiced from 1 January 2014 through 31 May 2015. To facilitate this payment, BCCA will need the actual BCG inventory on hand as of end of day of **31 May 2015**. An email reminder will be sent out to the Health Authorities' purchasers closer to the date.

For more information, please contact OSCAR at [oscar@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:oscar@bccancer.bc.ca) or 1-888-355-0355.

## LIST OF NEW AND REVISED PROTOCOLS, PRE-PRINTED ORDERS AND PATIENT HANDOUTS

**BC Cancer Agency Protocol Summaries, Provincial Pre-Printed Orders (PPPOs) and Patient Handouts** are revised periodically. New, revised or deleted protocols, PPPOs and patient handouts for this month are listed below. Protocol codes for treatments requiring BCCA Compassionate Access Program approval are prefixed with the letter "U".

### NEW PROTOCOLS, PPPOs AND PATIENT HANDOUTS (AFFECTED DOCUMENTS ARE CHECKED):

CODE	Protocol	PPPO	Patient Handout	Protocol Title
GOENDD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Doxorubicin for Use in Patients with Advanced Endometrial Cancer
GOSAD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Doxorubicin for Use in Patients with Advanced Uterine Sarcoma
GUPDOCADT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	First-Line Treatment of Castration Sensitive, Metastatic Prostate Cancer Using DOCetaxel and Androgen Deprivation Therapy
ULUAVAFAT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	First-Line Treatment of Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Mutation-Positive Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer with Afatinib
UMYPOMDEX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Therapy of Multiple Myeloma Using Pomalidomide with Dexamethasone
SAVDC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adjuvant Therapy for Rhabdomyosarcoma Using vinCRISTine, Dactinomycin, and Cyclophosphamide
SMMCCPE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Treatment of Recurrent or Metastatic Merkel Cell Carcinoma with CISplatin and Etoposide

**REVISED PROTOCOLS, PPPOs AND PATIENT HANDOUTS (AFFECTED DOCUMENTS ARE CHECKED):**

CODE	Protocol	PPPO	Patient Handout	Changes	Protocol Title
BRAJACTW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Paclitaxel infusion volume clarified</i>	Adjuvant Therapy for Early Breast Cancer Using DOXOrubicin and Cyclophosphamide followed by Weekly PACLitaxel
BRLATWAC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Eligibility and paclitaxel infusion volume clarified</i>	NeoAdjuvant Therapy for Locally Advanced Breast Cancer Using Weekly PACLitaxel Followed by DOXOrubicin and Cyclophosphamide
GICART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Mitomycin dose clarified</i>	Curative Combined Modality Therapy for Carcinoma of the Anal Canal Using Mitomycin, Capecitabine and Radiation Therapy
GIENACTRT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Benefit status changed to class I</i>	Neoadjuvant Treatment of Esophageal and Gastroesophageal Carcinomas Using CARBOplatin, PACLitaxel and Radiation Therapy
GIFUART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Mitomycin dose clarified, INR monitoring added</i>	Curative Combined Modality Therapy for Carcinoma of the Anal Canal Using Mitomycin, Infusional Fluorouracil and Radiation Therapy
GOOVDDCAT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Paclitaxel infusion volume clarified</i>	Treatment of Advanced Epithelial Ovarian, Primary Peritoneal, or Fallopian Tube Carcinoma Using CARBOplatin and Weekly PACLitaxel
GOOVDOC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Treatment duration revised</i>	Treatment Of Progressive, Platinum-Refractory Epithelial Ovarian Carcinoma, Primary Peritoneal Carcinoma or Fallopian Tube Carcinoma Using DOCEtaxel
GOOVLDOX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Treatment duration revised</i>	Treatment of Relapsed/Progressing, Epithelial Ovarian, Primary Peritoneal or Fallopian Tube Carcinoma Using Pegylated Liposomal DOXOrubicin
HNNAVPG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Gemcitabine dosing schedule clarified</i>	Treatment of Locoregionally Recurrent or Metastatic Nasopharyngeal Cancer with Platinum and Gemcitabine
LUAVERL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Minocycline for rash management added</i>	Second- or Third-Line Treatment of Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer with Erlotinib
ULUAVGEFF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Minocycline for rash management added</i>	First-Line Treatment of Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Mutation-Positive Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer with Gefitinib
ULUAVMTNE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Minocycline for rash management added</i>	Maintenance Therapy of Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer with Erlotinib After First-Line Chemotherapy
ULKMSA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Lab tests clarified</i>	Therapy of Myelodysplastic Syndrome Using Azacitidine
ULYCLLBEND	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Eligibility clarified</i>	Treatment of Relapsed Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia with Bendamustine
SAAJAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Treatment summary clarified</i>	Adjuvant Treatment of Osteosarcoma with Doxorubicin and Cisplatin
USAAVGR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Timing of lab tests clarified</i>	Third Line Therapy of Advanced Gastrointestinal Stromal Cell Tumours Using Regorafenib

**REVISED PROTOCOLS, PPPOs AND PATIENT HANDOUTS (AFFECTED DOCUMENTS ARE CHECKED):**

CODE	Protocol	PPPO	Patient Handout	Changes	Protocol Title
USMAVDAB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Lab tests revised</i>	Treatment of BRAF V600 Mutation-Positive Unresectable or Metastatic Melanoma Using Dabrafenib
USMAVVEM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Lab tests revised</i>	Treatment of BRAF V600 Mutation-Positive Unresectable or Metastatic Melanoma Using Vemurafenib

**DELETED Protocols, PPPOs and Patient Handouts (AFFECTED DOCUMENTS ARE CHECKED):**

CODE	Protocol	PPPO	Patient Handout	Protocol Title
BRAJCAFG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adjuvant Therapy for Breast Cancer Using Cyclophosphamide, DOXOrubicin , Fluorouracil and Filgrastim
BRAJCAFPO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adjuvant Therapy for Breast Cancer Using Oral Cyclophosphamide, DOXOrubicin and Fluorouracil
BRINCAF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Therapy for Inflammatory Breast Cancer Using Cyclophosphamide, DOXOrubicin and Fluorouracil

## WEBSITE RESOURCES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

WEBSITE RESOURCES	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca">www.bccancer.bc.ca</a>
Systemic Therapy Update	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/systemic-therapy/systemic-therapy-update">www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/systemic-therapy/systemic-therapy-update</a>
Reimbursement & Forms: Benefit Drug List, Class II, Compassionate Access Program	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/systemic-therapy">www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/systemic-therapy</a>
Cancer Drug Manual	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/cancer-drug-manual">www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/cancer-drug-manual</a>
Cancer Management Guidelines	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/cancer-management-guidelines">www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/cancer-management-guidelines</a>
Cancer Chemotherapy Protocols, Pre-printed Orders, Protocol Patient Handouts	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/chemotherapy-protocols">www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/chemotherapy-protocols</a>
Systemic Therapy Program Policies	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/systemic-therapy">www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/systemic-therapy</a>
CON Pharmacy Educators	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/pharmacy">www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/pharmacy</a>

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Oncology Drug Information	604.877.6275		druginfo@bccancer.bc.ca
Education Resource Nurse	604.877.6000 x 672638		nursinged@bccancer.bc.ca
Library/Cancer Information	604.675.8003 Toll Free 888.675.8001 x 8003		requests@bccancer.bc.ca
Pharmacy Professional Practice	604.877.6000 x 672247		mclin@bccancer.bc.ca
Nursing Professional Practice	604.877.6000 x 672623		ilundie@bccancer.bc.ca
OSCAR	888.355.0355	604.708.2051	oscar@bccancer.bc.ca
Compassionate Access Program (CAP)	604.877.6277	604.708.2026	cap_bcca@bccancer.bc.ca
Pharmacy Chemotherapy Certification	250.712.3900 x 686741		rxchemocert@bccancer.bc.ca
BCCA-Abbotsford Centre	604.851.4710 Toll Free 877.547.3777		
BCCA-Centre for the North	250.645.7300 Toll Free 888.775.7300		
BCCA-Fraser Valley Centre	604.930.2098 Toll Free 800.523.2885		
BCCA-Sindi Ahluwalia Hawkins Centre for the Southern Interior	250.712.3900 Toll Free 888.563.7773		
BCCA-Vancouver Centre	604.877.6000 Toll Free 800.663.3333		
BCCA-Vancouver Island Centre	250.519.5500 Toll Free 800.670.3322		

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