



Systemic Therapy Update

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FAX request form and IN TOUCH phone list are provided if additional information is needed.

BENEFIT DRUG LIST

Effective July 1st 1999, adult port-a-cath supplies, ambulatory chemotherapy pump supplies (infusors, cassettes and tubing), hepatic arterial line supplies, Hickman line supplies and syringes, needles and alcohol swabs for patients who are self-administering interferon and octreotide will no longer be covered on the BCCA benefit drug list. These items are being delisted to be consistent with the BCCA Provincial Systemic Therapy Program's primary mandate which is to reimburse for cancer treatment medications, rather than for the operational supplies which are necessary to deliver treatments.

PHARMA NET

The BC Cancer Agency initiative to provide oncology drug adjudication via PharmaNet for the province is advancing. The proposal for funding is before Treasury Board and a decision is expected before fiscal year end.

Drs. Susan O'Reilly and Jack Chritchley, and Jeff Barnett have been meeting with oncologists and pharmacists to identify issues that must be addressed as the PharmaNet project evolves. Further meetings are planned with key stakeholders over the coming months.

At this point, plans are to allow a minimum 3 month lag time between project announcement and the "go live" date, so pharmacists and physicians have a reasonable adjustment period to prepare for new procedures. Other issues will be resolved as they are identified.

The PharmaNet project will help ensure that cancer patients throughout BC have easy access to appropriate and evidence-based treatment. It will also provide quicker reimbursement to hospitals and eliminate the Pharmacare deductible for patients currently paying for their medications.

Questions regarding the PharmaNet project should be e-mailed to jbarnett@bccancer.bc.ca (or call Jeff Barnett at 250-370-8938) and will be addressed in future Updates.

PROTOCOLS

Protocol codes for treatments requiring "Undesignated Indication" approval prior to use are now prefixed with the letter **U**.

- **GIFUIP** new (interim version), chemotherapy of pseudomyxoma peritonei using mitomycin and fluorouracil

- **GIRLAIFF** new (interim version), pre-operative concurrent chemotherapy and radiotherapy and post operative chemotherapy for locally advanced (borderline resectable or unresectable) rectal adenocarcinoma
- **GOOVAX3** revised (reformatted, interim version) treatment of progressive, platinum-refractory epithelial ovarian carcinoma, primary peritoneal carcinoma or fallopian tube carcinoma using paclitaxel (Taxol®)
- **LYCSA** new, cyclosporine for cytopenias associated with lymphoproliferative disorder of large granular lymphocytes
- **LYFLU** revised (renal dysfunction dose modification added) treatment of low grade lymphoma or chronic lymphocytic leukemia with fludarabine
- **MOIT** new palliative intrathecal methotrexate and/or thiotepa for solid tumours
- **UBRAVTR** new, palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using trastuzumab (Herceptin®) via Special Access Program (“Undesignated Indication” approval required prior to use)
- **UBRAVTRPA** new, palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using trastuzumab (Herceptin®) via Special Access Program and paclitaxel (Taxol®) (“Undesignated Indication” approval required prior to use)
- **UGIIRINALT** new (alternative weekly schedule, interim version) second-line treatment for 5-FU refractory metastatic colorectal cancer using weekly scheduled irinotecan (“Undesignated Indication” approval required prior to use)
- **ULYRITUX** (prefix U added to protocol code) treatment of CD20 positive lymphomas using rituximab (Rituxan®) via Special Access Program (“Undesignated Indication” approval required prior to use)

PATIENT HANDOUTS

- **Docetaxel** revised (gastrointestinal perforation warning added, dexamethasone premedication directions clarified)

- **Dexamethasone** new (for other than antiemetic use)
- **Warfarin** revised (capecitabine added)

PREPRINTED ORDERS

Preprinted orders in the Fraser Valley Cancer Centre format are available for Communities Oncology reference. Modifiable electronic copies (Word 6.0) can be provided by email.

- **BRAVDOC** revised (non-PVC equipment added)

BCHS CONTRACT

At the awards meeting in November, BCHS accepted a bundled proposal from Pharmacia and Upjohn. The bundle includes irinotecan (Camptosar®) and epirubicin solution (Pharmorubicin PFS®). P&U made the pricing within the agreement effective on the day that the details of the bundle were settled (in November). Therefore, contract prices for these products listed in the 1999 agreements catalogue are in now effect. Epirubicin solution (Pharmorubicin PFS®) is now cheaper than the powder (Pharmorubicin RDF®).

DRUG UPDATE

Aminoglutethimide (Cytadren®) Discontinued

Aminoglutethimide was discontinued by the manufacturer. The BCCA Breast Tumour Group recommends changing therapy to an aromatase inhibitor (anastrozole or letrozole). Please be reminded that any supplemental steroids must be tapered slowly.

Capecitabine – Warfarin Interaction

There are case reports of a possible interaction between capecitabine (Xeloda®) and warfarin (Coumadin®) resulting in altered INR and/or bleeding. In some cases, this occurred up to several months after initiation of capecitabine. The mechanism of the interaction is unclear and there were confounding variables in many cases. The BCCA warfarin handout has been modified to reflect this information. Close monitoring is recommended for those patients taking capecitabine concomitantly with warfarin.

HOT TOPICS

Trastuzumab (Herceptin®)

Trastuzumab, a monoclonal antibody against HER-2/neu, was approved in the US for the treatment of metastatic breast cancer. In Canada, a limited supply is available free of charge on a compassionate release basis through Hoffmann-LaRoche and Health Canada's Special Access Program (see protocol summaries UBRAVTR and UBRAVTRPA). To enroll patients, contact Dr. Nanda Gosala (Hoffmann-LaRoche) at (905) 542-5020. For use with paclitaxel or at a radiation cancer centre, BCCA "Undesignated Indication" approval is required.

HER-2 neu Testing

HER-2 neu testing is available for metastatic breast cancer. Please submit requests with a well-fixed paraffin block of the tumour to BCCA Pathology, attention Dr. Malcolm Hayes.

HEALTH CANADA APPROVALS

Octreotide depot (Sandostatin LAR®, Novartis) once monthly injection has been approved for acromegalic patients. Octreotide depot is currently NOT covered under the BCCA benefit list. (Note: short-acting octreotide is a BCCA benefit drug.)

Carmustine wafer (Gliadel®, Rhone Poulenc Rorer) has been approved for local treatment of newly diagnosed or recurrent malignant glioma when surgical resection is indicated (wafers are placed into the surgical resection cavity intraoperatively). Carmustine wafers are currently NOT covered under the BCCA benefit list.

NURSING PRACTICE

Caring for the Patient Receiving Chemotherapy: Course & Practicum

For many years, BCCA has offered a certification program for nurses both within the agency as well as within the communities program. The following describes the current revised program and some directions that are being investigated for the future.

The focus of the program is the care of the patient and family experiencing a diagnosis of cancer where

chemotherapy is used as a treatment. A component of the program is focused on the safe administration of cytotoxic medications. This course is based on the use of 2 to 3 case studies and is interactive in nature.

Prerequisites:

1. Demonstrate competence in intravenous therapy including: initiating peripheral IV lines; caring for peripheral IV lines; caring for central IV lines.
2. Currently providing care for patients receiving chemotherapy (or will be within the 3 months following the course).
3. Complete the pre-reading program (10 hours).
4. Complete the exam with a mark of 80% or higher.

Course: Through the use of case studies, a simulative and interactive approach is used to meet the objectives over a 2-day period.

Practicum: This is a 3-day experience where the learner has a 1:1 experienced oncology nurse preceptor at one of the BCCA sites. The learner will:

- apply general knowledge of chemotherapy to specific patient situations
- apply the nursing process in the care of patients/families receiving chemotherapy
- safely administer chemotherapy by IV infusion and side arm methods

The course and practicum will be offered twice a year in April and September. In 1999 the dates are set for April 20, 21 and September 21, 22. There are a limited number of participants due to the limited places to have practicums at this time. The number of participants is 10 per session.

Future Directions:

- creating practicum experiences outside of BCCA
- how to support staff in community programs after the course & practicum

For more information please contact Isabel Lundie, secretary for Professional Practice, Nursing at (604) 877-6000 Local 2623 who can link you with the Regional Nurse Leader: Education and Practice in your region.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Clinical Training Awards

The Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) offers financial awards to health care professionals to attend short continuing education programs pertaining to the care of patients with cancer and their family members. Applications for the spring cycle must be received by April 16, 1999 and for the fall cycle by October 15, 1999. For further information, please email mdixon@cancer.ca or fax 416-961-4189. The application form is also available on the CCS website at www.cancer.ca (select "What we do", then "Medical aspects of cancer").

National Oncology Pharmacy Symposium Toronto, April 24, 1999

NOPS is the annual educational event organized by the Canadian Association of Pharmacy in Oncology in cooperation with the National Cancer Institute of Canada Pharmacists' Network. Registration is free of charge for Canadian residents if the application is received prior to March 20, 1999. For further information, please fax Lai Schrader at the Cross Cancer Institute 780-432-8407.

VIDEOS AVAILABLE

Lung Conference

The Communities Oncology Network has available 3 videos that were produced from the Lung Conference held in October 1998 in Richmond. If you are interested in borrowing any of the videos listed below, please call Barb Fiddler at 604-877-6000, extension 2744 or email bfiddler@bccancer.bc.ca.

Video I Epidemiology of Lung Cancer in British Columbia (Mary McBride), Molecular Biology of Lung Cancer for the Clinician (Jaclyn Hung), Lung Cancer Screening and Chemo Prevention (Stephen Lam), Management of Small Cell Lung Cancer (Heidi Martins)

Video II Palliative Radiation Treatment for NSCLC (Paul Blood), Chemotherapy of Advanced NSCLC? Any Progress? (Nevin Murray), Quality of Life Endpoints for Palliation of Lung Cancer (Chris Lee)

Video III Palliation of Dyspnea in Advanced Lung Cancer (Ann Syme), Multimodality Therapy of Stage III Disease (Barry Sheehan), Surgical Considerations for Stage III NSCLC (Bill Nelems), When Definitive Treatment is Finished: Evidence-Based Follow-up (Malcolm Brigden)

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BCCA SYSTEMIC THERAPY UPDATE FAX REQUEST FORM

FAX (604) 877-6132

bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca

TO SUBSCRIBE: FAX OR EMAIL YOUR REQUEST OR CALL @ 877-6098 LOCAL 2247

FOR URGENT REQUESTS PLEASE CALL (604) 877-6098 LOCAL 2247

OR TOLL-FREE IN BC 1-800-663-3333 LOCAL 2247

I WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE THIS INFORMATION VIA:

E-mail (Word 6.0)

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Attn:

UPDATES Please Fax-Back information below:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | All items |
| | Patient Handouts: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Docetaxel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dexamethasone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Warfarin |
| | Protocol Summaries: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | GIFUIP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | GIRLAIFF |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | GOOV TAX3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | LYCSA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | LYFLU |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | UBRAVTRPA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | UGIIRINALT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | ULYRITUX |
| | Reimbursement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Benefit Drug List (01 Mar 99) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Class 2 Form (01 Mar 99) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Undesignated Drug Request Form (01 Mar 99) |

RADIATION CANCER CENTRE ACCESS

BULLETIN UPDATES	LOCATION
Patient Handouts	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Pt_Educ
Dexamethasone	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Pt_Educ\Dexamethasone.doc
Docetaxel	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Pt_Educ\Docetaxel.com
Warfarin	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Pt_Educ\Warfarin.com
Protocol Summaries	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol
GIFUIP	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol\GI\gifuip
GIRLAIFF	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol\GI\girlaiff
GOOVAX3	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol\Gyne\goovtax3
LYCSA	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol\Lymphoma\lycsa
LYFLU	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol\Lymphoma\lyflu
MOIT	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol\Miscellaneous origins\moit
UBRAVTR	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol\Breast\ubravtr
UBRAVTRPA	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol\Breast\ubravtrpa
UGIIRINALT	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol\GI\ugiirinalt
ULYRITUX	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol\Lymphoma\ulyritux
Reimbursement	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Reimburs
Benefit Drug List	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Reimburs\Benefit.doc
Class 2 Form	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Reimburs\Class2.doc
Undesignated Drug Request Form	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Reimburs\Undesig.doc

For easy access, double-click your systemic chemo icon.

We appreciate your comments. Write us at bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca

IN TOUCH	www.bccancer.bc.ca	bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca
BC Cancer Agency	(604)-877-6000	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333
Cancer Centre for the Southern Interior (CCSI)	(250) 712-3900	Toll-Free 1-(888)-563-7773
Fraser Valley Cancer Centre (FVCC)	(604)-930-2098	
Vancouver Cancer Centre (VCC)	(604)-877-6000	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333
Vancouver Island Cancer Centre (VICC)	(250) 370-8228	Toll-Free 1-(800)-670-3322
Communities Oncology Network	(604) 877-6098 Ext 2744	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333 Ext 2744
Nursing Professional Practice	(604)-877-6098 Ext 2623	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333 Ext 2623
Pharmacy Professional Practice	(604)-877-6098 Ext 2247	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333 Ext 2247
Provincial Systemic Program	(604)-877-6098 Ext 2247	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333 Ext 2247
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