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

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROTOCOL CHANGES

Revised Protocols The *Lung* Tumour Group has added *non-small cell lung cancer* (NSCLC) as an additional indication for the combination regimen of *cisplatin* and *gemcitabine* (LUPG). This regimen was previously limited to patients with malignant mesothelioma but now can be used for patients with locally advanced (stage IIIB), recurrent, or metastatic (stage IV) NSCLC. The *Breast* Tumour Group has added *Leuprolide* as an alternative luteinising-hormone releasing hormone (LHRH) agonist to *Buserelin* and *Goserelin* in the combination palliative treatment of premenopausal women with *metastatic breast* cancer (BRAVBT).

BENEFIT DRUG LIST

The following new program has been funded by the Provincial Systemic Therapy Program effective 1 December 2003:

- **Gemcitabine** in combination with cisplatin for non-small cell lung cancer (LUPG)

This new indication is now added to the existing Class II drug on the benefit list. A Class II form must be completed for gemcitabine and submitted to the Provincial Systemic Therapy Program before the drug will be dispensed at a regional cancer centre or reimbursed to a community hospital.

Susan O'Reilly, MB, FRCPC
Provincial Systemic Program Leader

The current Benefit Drug List, Class II forms and Undesignated Indication Application forms are available on the BC Cancer Agency website (<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/ChemoProtocols/Forms/>) under Health Professionals Info, Chemotherapy Protocols, Frequently Used Forms.

LIST OF NEW AND REVISED PROTOCOLS

INDEX to BC Cancer Agency Protocol Summaries revised monthly (include tumour group, protocol code, indication, drugs, last revision date and version). Protocol codes for treatments requiring "Undesignated Indication" approval prior to use are prefixed with the letter U.

- **BRAVBT** revised (leuprolide added as alternative): Palliative therapy for breast cancer using buserelin and tamoxifen
- **GOENDCAD** revised (typo corrected in Title): Treatment of primary advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer using carboplatin and docetaxel
- **GOENDCAT** revised (typo corrected in Title): Treatment of primary advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer using carboplatin and paclitaxel (GO 95 01)
- **UGOOVCAGE** new: Treatment of advanced ovarian cancer in patients who have progressed or recurred following first-line platinum-based treatment using carboplatin and gemcitabine
- **GOOVTOP** revised (eligibility clarified on reimbursement of gemcitabine and topotecan):

Treatment of relapsed/progressive epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube or primary peritoneal cancer using topotecan

- **LUPG** revised (eligibility expanded to include non-small cell lung cancer): Treatment of non-small cell lung cancer and malignant mesothelioma with cisplatin and gemcitabine
- **LYABVD** revised (diluent for dacarbazine): Treatment of Hodgkin's disease with doxorubicin, bleomycin, vinblastine, and dacarbazine
- **SAAJAP** revised (EKG deleted from Tests): Adjuvant therapy for osteosarcoma using doxorubicin (Adriamycin®) and cisplatin
- **SAAVAP** (EKG deleted from Tests): Therapy of advanced osteosarcoma using doxorubicin (Adriamycin®) and cisplatin
- **SMDTIC** revised (diluent for dacarbazine): Palliative therapy for metastatic malignant melanoma using high dose dacarbazine (DTIC)

Protocols are available on the BC Cancer Agency website

(<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/ChemoProtocols/>)

under Health Professionals Info, Chemotherapy Protocols.

CANCER MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The Cancer Management Guidelines are available on the BC Cancer Agency website (<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/CaMgmtGuidelines/>) under Health Professionals Info, Cancer Management Guidelines.

PRE-PRINTED ORDER UPDATE

Pre-printed orders should always be checked with the most current BC Cancer Agency protocol summaries. The BC Cancer Agency Vancouver Centre has prepared chemotherapy pre-printed orders, which can be used as a guide for reference. An index to the orders can be obtained by Fax-back.

- **BRAJCAF** revised (fluorouracil dose from 600 mg/m² to 500 mg/m²): Adjuvant therapy for breast cancer using cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin and fluorouracil
- **BRVCAF** revised (fluorouracil dose from 600 mg/m² to 500 mg/m²): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin and fluorouracil
- **BRINFCAF** revised (fluorouracil dose from 600 mg/m² to 500 mg/m²): Therapy for

inflammatory breast cancer using cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin and fluorouracil

- **BRLA2** revised (fluorouracil dose from 600 mg/m² to 500 mg/m²): Therapy for locally advanced breast cancer using cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin and fluorouracil
- **GOSMCC2** revised (potassium chloride deleted from cisplatin infusion bag): Treatment of small cell carcinoma of cervix using paclitaxel, cisplatin, etoposide and carboplatin with radiation (GO 95 02)
- **ULYALEM** new: Treatment of fludarabine-refractory B-chronic lymphocytic leukemia (B-CLL) and T-prolymphocytic leukemia (T-PLL) with alemtuzumab

PATIENT EDUCATION

Patient information handouts for cancer drugs are available on the BC Cancer Agency website (www.bccancer.bc.ca/DrugDatabasePt/) under Health Professionals Info, Cancer Drug Manual, Drug Information for the Patient. For treatment protocol specific information, go to the BC Cancer Agency website (www.bccancer.bc.ca) under [Health Professionals Info, Chemotherapy Protocols, Information for the Patient.](#)

CANCER DRUG MANUAL

The Cancer Drug Manual is available on the BC Cancer Agency website www.bccancer.bc.ca/cdm/.

FOCUS ON CLASS II DRUG AND UNDESIGNATED INDICATION REQUESTS

The BC Cancer Agency (BCCA) strives to provide safe, evidence-based and cost-effective cancer treatments to all registered cancer patients who are permanent residents in BC. To assist patients receiving such treatments, regardless of where they are in BC, BCCA will reimburse the costs of all approved cancer drugs to the Communities Oncology Network (CON) hospital pharmacies in the province. The approved drugs are listed in the BCCA Drug Benefit List and the cost of only these

FOCUS ON CLASS II DRUG AND UNDESIGNATED INDICATION REQUESTS (CONT'D)

medications will be eligible for reimbursement through the BCCA-Provincial Systemic Therapy Program.

The BCCA Benefit Drug list is divided into several categories: Class I, Class II, and Undesignated. A current version of the Benefit Drug list is available at www.bccancer.bc.ca. The CON hospital pharmacist should ensure that the most up to date version is used at all times.

Class I drugs generally do not have any restrictions as long as the drug is being used for a BCCA-approved cancer treatment. For example, megestrol acetate is covered for the active treatments of prostate cancer, breast cancer and endometrial cancer. It is not reimbursable for use in cachexia.

Class II designation is for drugs used in the active treatment of cancer, for a specified indication. Certain conditions of use must be met and a BCCA-Systemic Therapy Program, Class II Drug Registration form (available at www.bccancer.bc.ca) must be completed with the appropriate indication checked off. No modifications to the form are allowed. Examples of Class II drugs are: thyrotropin alpha in the protocol HNTSH, and paclitaxel in the protocol BRAVTAX.

The procedure to ensure timely reimbursement from the BCCA is:

1. Prescription is received by CON hospital pharmacy.
2. Check for benefit status of the drug(s) using the current BCCA Benefit Drug list.
3. Drug(s) is determined to be Class II status.
4. Complete the BCCA-Systemic Therapy Program, Class II Drug Registration form with the appropriate indication checked off. The ordering physician usually completes this, however, the pharmacist may do so provided that the appropriate indication has been confirmed with the physician.
5. Fax the completed form to the BCCA-Systemic Therapy Program (604-708-2026).
6. Process order as per usual pharmacy procedures. The pharmacist does not have to wait for confirmation from the BCCA-Systemic Therapy Program before proceeding with the order.

7. Reimbursement to follow as per usual pharmacy billing procedures to BCCA. To prevent any delay in reimbursement, this process must be completed the first time this Class II drug is used for this patient, for the stated indication. This information is processed into the Provincial Anti-Neoplastic Drug Adjudication (PANDA) database to enable tracing and auto approval of subsequent billings from the CON centres for the same drug and indication. Billings for Class II drugs will be rejected if the Class II Drug Registration form has not been received. The billing must be resubmitted with the appropriate completed form.

Those drugs that do not fit into a Class I or Class II category may be covered under the Undesignated Approval designation. This case-by-case approval can be obtained by providing the appropriate patient-specific clinical information to the BCCA-Systemic Therapy Program for approval. This is accomplished via a completed "Undesignated Indications Request" form. (available at www.bccancer.bc.ca)

The procedure to follow to ensure timely reimbursement from the BCCA is:

1. Prescription is received by CON hospital pharmacy.
2. Check for benefit status of the drug(s) using the current BCCA Benefit Drug list.
3. Drug(s) does not fall into the Class I or Class II category.
4. Physician must complete the BCCA-Systemic Therapy Program, Undesignated Indications Request form with all the requested information.
5. Fax the completed form to the BCCA-Systemic Therapy Program (604-708-2026).
6. Wait for approval (or non-approval) notification from the BCCA-Systemic Therapy Program. This may take up to 2 business days. Do not dispense the drug until approval has been received. Approval or denial notification will be faxed to the requesting physician, or to the fax number designated on the request form.
7. If approval is received, the order can be processed as per usual pharmacy procedures. Reimbursement to follow as per usual pharmacy billing procedures.
8. If no approval is given and the drug is dispensed, the host hospital must take responsibility for the cost of the drug.

The Undesignated Approval process differs from the Class II process in that notification of approval must be received prior to processing the prescription for reimbursement eligibility. Reimbursement is never given retroactively. In some cases, approval is given for a designated number of cycles, then the patient must be reassessed. In these cases, if treatment is to continue, a second undesignated request form must be completed and submitted to the BCCA Systemic Therapy Program.

The information collected on the Class II and Undesignated Request forms is used for quality assurance purposes within the CON reimbursement program, as well as to facilitate pharmacoeconomic analyses and outcomes research for the Systemic Therapy Program. In the 2000-2001 fiscal year, Class II drugs accounted for approximately 48% of the total drug budget expenditure. Undesignated requests amounted to \$4.3 million dollars.

For questions regarding the Class II drug or Undesignated Request process, please contact the BCCA-Systemic Therapy Program at 604-877-6277 or 1-800-663-3333, local 6277.

Submitted by
Dawn Annable
Pharmacy CON Educator- Fraser Valley
October 28, 2003

PROVINCIAL SYSTEMIC THERAPY PROGRAM POLICIES

BC Cancer Agency Systemic Therapy Policies are available on the BC Cancer Agency website (<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/ChemoProtocols/Policies/>) under Health Professionals Info, Chemotherapy Protocols, Policies and Procedures.

LIBRARY/CANCER INFORMATION CENTRE

Unconventional Cancer Therapies Manual is available on the BC Cancer Agency website www.bccancer.bc.ca under Patient/Public Info, Unconventional Therapies. The manual consists of 46 short monographs on the more commonly used unconventional cancer therapies (e.g., Essiac, vitamins, teas, shark cartilage) and includes tips for the patient and family on how unconventional therapies can be evaluated. For each therapy the manual provides proponent/advocate claims, as well as evidence-based evaluation/critique quotations from the literature.

This manual is currently being revised and the Fourth Edition will be published in the near future.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Continuing Education Module We are proud to announce that the Pharmacy Communities Oncology Network (CON) Educators at the BC Cancer Agency (BCCA) have released the first continuing education module titled "Pharmacy Guide to BCCA Chemotherapy Protocols" on 29th of November, 2003. This module addresses clinical interpretation and application of the BCCA chemotherapy protocol summaries. It has been accredited for three continuing education units by the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of British Columbia.

The module is designed for pharmacists providing oncology care in their community hospital setting, covering a wide range of topics that address the day-to-day concerns encountered when providing oncology care to a patient.

For more details, see the November issue of the Systemic Therapy Update.

Nancy Coady
Pharmacy CON Educator
BCCA – Vancouver Island Centre

New Pharmacy CON Educators Ms. *Rhonda Kalyn* and Ms. *Marianne Moore* have recently been appointed to be the pharmacy CON educator for the Centre for the Southern Interior and the Vancouver Centre, respectively. *Rhonda* graduated from the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon in 1989. She has practised as community pharmacist in Saskatoon and Sechelt before moving to hospital practice at the Kelowna General in 1996. *Rhonda* joined the BCCA – Centre for the Southern Interior 2002.

Marianne has previously held a number of positions at the agency, including assistant pharmacy director, drug information pharmacist, acting pharmacy director, and most recently clinical trial pharmacist. She was the editor of the BCCA Aseptic and Safe Preparation of Cytotoxic

Drugs – Procedures and Checklists, co-editor of the BCCA Cancer Drug Manual (1st edition), editor of the BCCA Pharmacy Bulletin (1994-7), pharmacy representative of the BCCA Gynaecological Tumour Group (1998-2001), and reviewer on the regulations on cytotoxic antineoplastics of the Workers' Compensation Board of BC (1994-1997). Marianne was instrumental in the development of the parenteral pharmacy services at the Vancouver Centre, BCCA Pharmacy Technician Chemo Certification Program, BCCA Chemo Handling Workshops and the BC Hospitals Parenteral Services Group.

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BC CANCER AGENCY SYSTEMIC THERAPY UPDATE REQUEST FORM

FAX (604) 877-0585

bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca

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

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