

For Health Professionals Who Care for Cancer Patients

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Editor's Choice

New Programs

Effective 01 April 2024, the BC Cancer Provincial Systemic Therapy Program has approved the following new treatment programs. The full details of these programs can be found on the BC Cancer website in the [Chemotherapy Protocols](#) section.

Genitourinary

Darolutamide and DOCetaxel for Metastatic Castration Sensitive Prostate Cancer (UGUMCSPDD) – The BC Cancer Genitourinary Tumour Group is introducing darolutamide and docetaxel as treatment for metastatic castration sensitive prostate cancer in patients with no prior systemic treatment for metastatic prostate cancer (excluding androgen deprivation therapy [ADT]). In the ARASENS trial, darolutamide plus docetaxel and ADT demonstrated statistically significant and clinically meaningful improvements in overall survival compared to docetaxel and ADT alone (43.7 months vs. 42.4 months, hazard ratio 0.68). The safety profile of darolutamide plus docetaxel and ADT was overall similar to that of docetaxel and ADT, with no additional safety concerns identified.[1]

Editor's Choice

New Programs

Lymphoma

Sequential Brentuximab Vedotin and Doxorubicin, Vinblastine, and Dacarbazine for Elderly Patients with Previously Untreated, Stage IV Hodgkin Lymphoma (LYBVAVDBV) — The BC Cancer Lymphoma Tumour Group is introducing sequential brentuximab vedotin (BV) before and after doxorubicin, vinblastine, and dacarbazine (AVD) for elderly patients with previously untreated, stage IV Hodgkin lymphoma. In the multicenter, open label phase II study, sequential BV and AVD demonstrated a 2-year event-free survival, progression-free survival, and overall survival rate of 80%, 84%, and 93% respectively. Safety results in this study compared favourably with that in other studies, with the risk of grade 3 neuropathy at 4% and grade 2 neuropathy at 27% and reversible in most patients.[2]

Melanoma

Tebentafusp for Metastatic Uveal Melanoma (USMAVTEB) – The BC Cancer Skin & Melanoma Tumour Group is introducing tebentafusp as treatment for patients with human leukocyte antigen (HLA)-A*02:01-positive unresectable or metastatic uveal melanoma. In the phase III Study 202, tebentafusp was associated with improved overall survival (hazard ratio 0.51) and progression free survival (hazard ratio 0.73) compared to physician's choice of dacarbazine, pembrolizumab, or ipilimumab. Tebentafusp is a bispecific T-cell engager and was associated with a risk of cytokine release syndrome and dermatological adverse events, but these are transient and manageable toxicities consistent with the known safety.[3]

References

1. CADTH Reimbursement Recommendation. Darolutamide (Nubeqa): For the treatment of patients with metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer in combination with docetaxel. Jan 2023
2. Evens AM, Advani RH, Helenowski IB, et al. Multicenter phase II study of sequential brentuximab vedotin and doxorubicin, vinblastine, and dacarbazine chemotherapy for older patients with untreated classical Hodgkin lymphoma. *J Clin Oncol* 2018;36(30):3015.
3. CADTH Reimbursement Recommendation. Tebentafusp (Kimmtrak): For the treatment of human leukocyte antigen (HLA)-A*02:01-positive adult patients with unresectable or metastatic uveal melanoma. Jan 2023.

Drug Update

Buserelin to be delisted from Benefit List on 1 May 2024

Buserelin is a luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone (LHRH) agonist for the treatment of patients with prostate cancer and breast cancer. **Starting 1 May 2024**, buserelin will be **removed** from the BC Cancer Benefit Drug List. Therefore, please do not start any new patients on buserelin.

Other LHRH agonists (goserelin, leuprolide) with equivalent efficacy and toxicity are available on the Benefit Drug List. We strongly recommend selecting an alternate LHRH agonist for your existing patients. If a switch to an alternate LHRH agonist is not appropriate, please submit a request to the BC Cancer Compassionate Access Program (CAP) for buserelin to ensure continuity of care.

Revised Practice Standards and Policies

Updated: Pharmacy Practice Standards for Hazardous Drugs

BC Cancer's [Pharmacy Practice Standards for Hazardous Drugs Manual](#) has been updated in response to the BC Cancer Provincial Pharmacy Professional Practice Council approval of the recommendations of the Pharmacy Safe Handling Working Group on the use of gloves in the outpatient dispensary. Relevant aspects from safe handling directives being retired from the Shared Health Organizations Portal (SHOP) have also been incorporated.

Key updates include:

- Module 1 – updates to information regarding WorkSafeBC Regulations, C-PEC requirements, C-PEC certification and operation, use of isolation gowns in the controlled area, cleaning of eyeglasses, hand hygiene, and glove use when handling oral, topical, and manufacturer-supplied pre-filled syringe hazardous drug dosage forms.
- Glossary – definitions have been added.
- Standards Summary – changes corresponding to the updates made in Module 1.

Updates are highlighted in yellow. Any questions or concerns regarding these updates may be directed to BC Cancer's Pharmacy Oncology Certification Program team at rxchemocert@bccancer.bc.ca.

Benefit Drug List

New Programs

Effective 01 April 2024, the following new treatment programs have been added to the BC Cancer [Benefit Drug List](#):

Protocol Title	Protocol Code	Benefit Status
Treatment of Metastatic Castration Sensitive Prostate Cancer using Darolutamide and DOCetaxel	UGUMCSPDD	Restricted
Treatment of Previously Untreated, Stage IV Hodgkin Lymphoma with Sequential Brentuximab Vedotin and DOXOrubicin, vinBLASTine and Dacarbazine in Patients 60 Years or Older	LYBVAVDBV	Class I
Treatment of Metastatic Uveal Melanoma using Tebentafusp	USMAVTEB	Restricted

All documents are available in the [Cancer Drug Manual[®]](#) on the BC Cancer website.

New Documents

Note that the following drug is not a BC Cancer Benefit Drug and requires application to the BC Cancer Compassionate Access Program (CAP). The corresponding Interim Monograph and Patient Handout are made available for reference only.

The **Belzutifan Interim Monograph** and **Patient Handout** have been developed. Expert review was provided by Dr. Maryam Soleimani (Director, BC Cancer VHL Clinic) and Megan Darbyshire (tumour group pharmacist, BC Cancer Provincial Pharmacy). Belzutifan is an orally administered hypoxia-inducible factor 2 alpha inhibitor. It is used in the treatment of von Hippel-Lindau disease associated renal cell carcinoma and pancreatic neuroendocrine tumour. The usual dosing is 120 mg PO once daily.

Highlights from these documents include:

- hypoxia that may require supplemental oxygen or hospitalization may occur; oxygen saturation levels should be closely monitored throughout treatment
- anemia is frequently reported and patients may require blood transfusion; monitor for signs/symptoms of anemia regularly throughout treatment
- retinal detachment is a rare but serious adverse event; patients should report any sudden loss of vision, floaters, or flashes of light immediately

Belzutifan has been added to the **Auxiliary Label List** and has been evaluated for the **BC Health Authorities Provincial Hazardous Drug List**.

Revised Documents

Tebentafusp Monograph and Patient Handout

Parenteral Administration: bolded and italicized BC Cancer standard administration and added new BC Cancer protocol USMAVTEB

Dosage Guidelines: bolded and italicized BC Cancer standard dosing and added new BC Cancer protocol USMAVTEB

Patient Handout: updated header and footer

New & Revised Protocols, Pre-Printed Orders and Patient Handouts

BC Cancer 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, with document revisions indicated in the respective columns. Protocol codes for treatment requiring BC Cancer Compassionate Access Program approval are prefixed with the letter **U**.

NEW Protocols, PPPOs and Patient Handouts (new documents checked)

Code	Protocol Title	Protocol	PPPO	Handout
UGUMCSPDD	Treatment of Metastatic Castration Sensitive Prostate Cancer using Darolutamide and DOCEtaxel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LYBVAVDBV	Treatment of Previously Untreated, Stage IV Hodgkin Lymphoma with Sequential Brentuximab Vedotin and DOXOrubicin, vinBLASTine and Dacarbazine in Patients 60 Years or Older	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
USMAVTEB	Treatment of Metastatic Uveal Melanoma using Tebentafusp	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REVISED Protocols, PPPOs and Patient Handouts (revisions in respective columns)

Code	Protocol Title	Protocol	PPPO	Handout
BR Breast				
BRAJCAP	Therapy of Adjuvant Breast Cancer using Capecitabine	<i>Eligibility clarified</i>	-	-
BRAJLHRHAI	Neoadjuvant or Adjuvant Ovarian Suppression and Aromatase Inhibitor in Premenopausal Women or In Men with High Risk Early Stage Breast Cancer	<i>Contact physician, eligibility and exclusions updated</i>	-	-
BRAVLHRHAI	Therapy for Advanced Breast Cancer using a LHRH Agonist and an Aromatase Inhibitor	<i>Contact physician and tests updated</i>	<i>Tests updated</i>	-
BRAVLHRHT	Palliative Therapy for Breast Cancer using a LHRH agonist and Tamoxifen	<i>Contact physician and tests updated</i>	<i>Tests updated</i>	-
GI Gastrointestinal				
GICPART	Curative Combined Modality Therapy for Carcinoma of the Anal Canal using CISplatin, Capecitabine and Radiation Therapy	<i>Premedications, tests, dose modifications updated</i>	<i>Premedications, prehydration updated, formatted pre-chemo metrics and tests</i>	-
GIFUPART	Curative Combined Modality Therapy for Carcinoma of the Anal Canal using CISplatin, Infusional Fluorouracil and Radiation Therapy	<i>Premedications, tests, dose modifications updated</i>	<i>Premedications, tests and formatting updated</i>	-

REVISED Protocols, PPPOs and Patient Handouts *(revisions in respective columns)*

Code	Protocol Title	Protocol	PPPO	Handout
GIGAJCPT	Adjuvant Chemotherapy of Gastric Cancer patients with Completely Resected Gastric Cancer using CISplatin and Capecitabine and Radiation Therapy	<i>Premedications, tests, dose modifications updated</i>	<i>Premedications, prehydration and tests updated</i>	-
GIIR	Palliative Chemotherapy of Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Using Irinotecan	<i>Test and precautions reformatted, references, treatment updated (dose cap removed)</i>	<i>Treatment updated (dose cap removed)</i>	
GO Gynecological				
GOCXCRT	Treatment of High Risk Squamous Carcinoma, Adenocarcinoma, or Adenosquamous Carcinoma of the Cervix with Concurrent CISplatin and Radiation	<i>Contact Physician, premedications, tests, dose modifications updated</i>	<i>Premedications, tests and formatting updated</i>	<i>Logo, name, premedications</i>
GOSCPERT	Treatment of Small Cell Gynecologic Cancer using CISplatin and Etoposide with Radiation Therapy	<i>Title, premedications, tests, dose modifications, physician contact phone number updated</i>	<i>Premedications, tests and formatting updated</i>	-
LY Lymphoma				
LYGDP	Treatment of Lymphoma with Gemcitabine, Dexamethasone and Platinum	<i>Exclusions, tests, premedications and dose modification updated</i>	<i>Pre-treatment metrics, carboplatin bag size, tests updated</i>	-
LYGDPR	Treatment of Lymphoma with Gemcitabine, Dexamethasone and Platinum with riTUXimab	<i>Exclusions, tests and dose modification updated</i>	<i>Pre-treatment metrics, pre-hydration, carboplatin bag size, tests updated</i>	-

Resources and Contact Information

Resource	Phone	Email / Toll Free / Fax
Systemic Therapy Update: www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/systemic-therapy/systemic-therapy-update		
Systemic Therapy Update Editor	604-877-6000 x 672649	bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca
Oncology Drug Information	604-877-6275	druginfo@bccancer.bc.ca
Cancer Drug Manual Editor	250-519-5500 x 693742	nbadry@bccancer.bc.ca
Pharmacy Oncology Certification	250-712-3900 x 686820	rxchemocert@bccancer.bc.ca
Nurse Educators	604-877-6000 x 672638	nursinged@bccancer.bc.ca
CAP – Compassionate Access Program	604-877-6277	cap_bcca@bccancer.bc.ca fax 604-708-2026
OSCAR – Online System for Cancer Drugs Adjudication and Reimbursement	888-355-0355	oscar@bccancer.bc.ca fax 604-708-2051
Library/Cancer Information	604-675-8003	toll free 888-675-8001 x 8003 requests@bccancer.bc.ca
Library Document Delivery	604-675-8002	requests@bccancer.bc.ca
Pharmacy Professional Practice	604-877-6000 x 672247	mclin@bccancer.bc.ca
Professional Practice, Nursing	604-877-6000 x 672623	BCCancerPPNAdmin@ehcnet.phsa.ca
Provincial Systemic Therapy Program	604-877-6000 x 672247	mclin@bccancer.bc.ca
BC Cancer – Abbotsford	604-851-4710	toll free 877-547-3777
BC Cancer – Kelowna	250-712-3900	toll free 888-563-7773
BC Cancer – Prince George	250-645-7300	toll free 855-775-7300
BC Cancer – Surrey	604-930-2098	toll free 800-523-2885
BC Cancer – Vancouver	604-877-6000	toll free 800-663-3333
BC Cancer – Victoria	250-519-5500	toll free 800-670-3322
Community Oncology Network (CON) sites: To update your contact information, please contact: bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca		

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