



BC Cancer Agency
CARE & RESEARCH
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Systemic Therapy Update

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Website access at <http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/stupdate.htm>

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IN TOUCH phone list is provided if additional information is needed.

EDITOR'S CHOICE:

HIGHLIGHTS OF CHANGES IN PROTOCOLS, PRE-PRINTED ORDERS AND PATIENT HANDOUTS

Unsafe Abbreviations, Symbols and Dose Designations have been removed from all BCCA cancer chemotherapy protocols and pre-printed orders, a total of over 600 documents. This helps eliminate their use from all written communications related to medication use. For more details on the list of unsafe abbreviations and symbols, see the October 2008 issue of the [Systemic Therapy Update](#).

Note that these abbreviations, symbols and dose designations should also not be used in medication-related documentation when hand written or entered as free text into a computer. More details are available in the BC Cancer Agency Policy on Use of Abbreviations/Acronyms in Clinical Documentation (PIM 060-IV-B-65), accessible for internal staff at [H:\EVERYONE\BCCA Policy Manual\VII. Patient Information Management](#).

SAFE MEDICATION PRACTICES – PATIENT GUIDE TO MEDICATION SAFETY

A new patient education handout has been created as a guide to safe medication use. The pamphlet describes some basic measures patients and their family members can take to prevent medication errors while receiving treatment at BCCA. Patients are advised to become familiar with their treatments, to be knowledgeable about their medications, and to ask questions whenever they feel unsure or have concerns. They are encouraged to actively participate in their care and play an important role in preventing medication errors. The pamphlet was designed to meet accreditation standards for patient education. It is located at various parts of the BCCA website:

- www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/DrugDatabase/Appendices/12.+Miscellaneous.htm
- www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/DrugDatabase/DrugIndexPt/Patient+Guide+to+Medication+Safety.htm
- www.bccancer.bc.ca/PPI/copingwithcancer/specificresources/Drugs.htm

DRUG UPDATE – LEUPROLIDE

ELIGARD® Brand Leuprolide 7.5 mg (1-month injection) and **30 mg** (4-month injection) has been discontinued by the manufacturer, sanofi-aventis. According to the company, these strengths are discontinued due to low usage and the availability of numerous other alternatives on the market. The ELIGARD® injections of 22.5 mg (3-month) and 45 mg (6-month) continue to be available.

There is no change in the availability of the LUPRON® brand of leuprolide, which continues to be available in 7.5 mg, 22.5 mg and 30 mg strengths.

The BCCA pharmacies have limited stock remaining of the ELIGARD® 7.5 mg and 30 mg injections. ALL PATIENTS currently receiving these two strengths will need to be switched to the LUPRON® brand or an alternative strength of the ELIGARD® brand. A new prescription or telephone order is required for this change.

CANCER DRUG MANUAL

Estramustine Monograph and Patient Handout have been completely updated. Expert review was provided by Dr. Kim Chi (medical oncologist) and Victoria Kyritsis (pharmacist) of the GU Tumour Group.

Ixabepilone Monograph (Interim) has been developed. An interim monograph is usually developed when an unfunded new drug is first being used at the BC Cancer Agency being used. Ixabepilone is a semi-synthetic analog of epothilone B that binds to the beta-tubulin subunits on microtubules, leading to suppression of microtubule dynamics and hence apoptosis. Currently, ixabepilone is only available with Health Canada's Special Access Programme. In the US, it is approved in combination with capecitabine for patients with advanced breast cancer resistant to anthracycline and taxane, or whose cancer is taxane resistant and further anthracycline is contraindicated.

Bortezomib Monograph and Patient Handout have been revised to include a caution on its interaction with green tea, based on a recent clinical report.

Aprepitant Patient Handout has been revised to clarify the need for non-hormonal contraceptive strategy, as aprepitant can reduce the efficacy of hormonal contraceptives.

Chemotherapy Preparation and Stability Chart has been updated to include information on ixabepilone. Note that non-PVC type of administration equipment is needed to prevent leaching of DEHP from the tubing and minibag.

PROVINCIAL SYSTEMIC THERAPY PROGRAM POLICIES

Chemotherapy Process Policy (III-10) (www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Policies.htm) has been updated (pages 2, 3) to include:

- clarifications on orders communicated verbally, via telephone and electronic transmission
- requirement of not using unsafe abbreviations, symbols and dose designations in medication orders
- cross reference to pharmacy directive on criteria for acceptable medication order

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 and revised protocols, PPPOs and patient handouts for this month are listed below. Protocol codes for treatments requiring “Compassionate Access Program” (previously Undesignated Indication Request) approval are prefixed with the letter U.

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

CODE	Protocol	PPPO	Patient Handout	Protocol Title
UGUTEM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Therapy for Advanced Renal Cancer Using Temsirolimus

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

CODE	Protocol	PPPO	Patient Handout	Changes	Protocol Title
GOOVTA3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Typo corrected in ANC and platelet values</i>	Treatment of Progressive, Platinum-Refractory Epithelial Ovarian Carcinoma, Primary Peritoneal Carcinoma or Fallopian Tube Carcinoma Using Paclitaxel
GUPLHRH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Physician contact revised, strengths of leuprolide SC injection revised</i>	Therapy for Prostate Cancer Using LHRH Agonist (Goserelin, Leuprolide or Buserelin)
UHCETRT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Requirement for Health Canada SAP approval deleted</i>	Combined Cetuximab and Radiation Treatment for Locally Advanced Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck
UMYLEDEX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Typo deleted from Eligibility</i>	Therapy of Multiple Myeloma Using Lenalidomide with Dexamethasone
LUAVPG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Eligibility revised</i>	Treatment of Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) with Platinum and Gemcitabine
LUAVTOP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Protocol code and eligibility revised, antiemetics revised</i>	Second-line Treatment of Recurrent Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC) with Topotecan
LUSCTOP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Replacing LUAVTOP</i>	Second-line Treatment of Recurrent Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC) with Topotecan

WEBSITE RESOURCES

The following are available on the BC Cancer Agency website (www.bccancer.bc.ca) under the Health Professionals Info section:

REIMBURSEMENT AND FORMS: BENEFIT DRUG LIST, CLASS II, BC CANCER AGENCY COMPASSIONATE ACCESS PROGRAM (UNDESIGNATED INDICATION)	www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Forms
CANCER DRUG MANUAL	www.bccancer.bc.ca/cdm
CANCER MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES	www.bccancer.bc.ca/CaMgmtGuidelines
CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY PROTOCOLS, PRE-PRINTED ORDERS AND PROTOCOL PATIENT HANDOUTS	www.bccancer.bc.ca/ChemoProtocols
SYSTEMIC THERAPY PROGRAM POLICIES	www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Policies
SYSTEMIC THERAPY UPDATE	www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/stupdate
COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE CANCER THERAPIES	under Patient/Public Info, Complementary Therapies

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NURSING PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE	Ext 2623	ilundie@bccancer.bc.ca
LIBRARY/CANCER INFORMATION	1-(888)-675-8001	requests@bccancer.bc.ca
	Ext 8003	
OSCAR HELP DESK	1-(888)-355-0355	oscar@bccancer.bc.ca
	Fax (604) 708-2051	
PHARMACY PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE	(250) 519.5574	kippen@bccancer.bc.ca
ABBOTSFORD CENTRE (AC)	(604) 851-4710	Toll-free: 1-(877) 547-3777
CENTRE FOR THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR (CCSI)	(250) 712-3900	Toll-Free 1-(888) 563-7773
FRASER VALLEY CENTRE (FVCC)	(604) 930-2098	Toll-Free 1-(800) 523-2885
VANCOUVER CENTRE (VCC)	(604) 877-6000	Toll-Free 1-(800) 663-3333
VANCOUVER ISLAND CENTRE (VICC)	(250) 519-5500	Toll-Free 1-(800) 670-3322