



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Request for New Programs for Cancer Drugs - Notice to all Tumour Group Members and Physicians in the Province
- Pharmacare Transfer of Cancer Drug Budget
- Benefit Drug List – GIGAI
- Protocol Update – BRAVCLOD, BRAVTRAP, UBRAVTR, GIGAI, UGUGEMCIS, LYABVD, LYCHOP, LYCHOP-R, LYCVP, LYCYCLO, LYODBEP, LYSNCC, SCHYPCAL
- Cancer Management Manual
- Pre-Printed Order Update - BRAVDOC, BRAVTAX, GIFUR2, GOSMCC2, GUBEP, LUDOC, LUPE, LYABVD, LYCHOP, LYCHOP-R, LYCVP, LYODBEP, LYSNCC, SAVIM

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

## BENEFIT DRUG LIST

The following new program has been funded by the Provincial Systemic Therapy Program effective August 1, 2001:

**Combined modality adjuvant therapy for completely resected gastric adenocarcinoma using fluorouracil + folinic acid (leucovorin) + radiation therapy (GIGAI).**

## NOTICE TO ALL TUMOUR GROUP MEMBERS AND PHYSICIANS IN THE PROVINCE

### REQUEST FOR NEW PROGRAMS FOR CANCER DRUGS FOR NEXT YEAR (2002/03)

Within the next few weeks, the British Columbia Cancer Agency Provincial Systemic Therapy Program will need to submit a draft budget estimate to the Ministry of Health for the 2002/2003 oncology drug budget.

We are aware that this is summer holiday time and we do not expect detailed proposals or even completed discussions within tumour groups at this point. However, we would appreciate advice as soon as possible regarding potential new programs being proposed, the estimated numbers of eligible patients, the dose schedule and duration of treatment planned with specific drugs and any replacement of a pre-existing treatment program. With this basic information, we can develop our first draft of our oncology drug budget for next year and add it to the anticipated growth.

### Update on the 2001/2002 Oncology Drug Budget

Our current \$48M oncology drug budget includes an additional \$11.5M from the Ministry of Health as requested last year. Nevertheless, despite this commitment by the Ministry of Health to cancer drugs, we are estimating that there will be a very considerable challenge predicting the number of patients with metastatic cancer throughout the province that may be deemed eligible for treatment with a number of costly new cancer drugs. The biggest risk to our ability to confidently predict patient numbers is with the use of the Saltz regimen (irinotecan-5FU-folinic acid) in metastatic colon

cancer, trastuzumab in metastatic breast cancer, and rituximab in low-grade lymphomas.

Based on our difficulty in estimating the number of patients likely to benefit from these regimens for advanced cancer, our projections suggest that we are at risk of developing a deficit of up to \$4M. This deficit would be offset against other BC Cancer Agency programs including oncology drugs. Your thoughtful consideration of utilization of these costly new agents in your clinical practice is greatly appreciated as we endeavour to support optimal care for all patients with cancer in the province.

### **Update on the 2001/2002 new program requests**

During this fiscal year, the Provincial Systemic Therapy Program has implemented several new programs:

#### **Breast Tumour Group**

- Extended indications for CEF chemotherapy up to age 60 years and for locally advanced and inflammatory breast cancer (protocols BRAJCEF, BRLACEF, BRINFCEF, June 2001).
- Exemestane as second-line hormonal therapy for postmenopausal, hormonally sensitive metastatic breast cancer, and for fourth line use in patients continuing to respond to hormone therapy (protocol BRAVEXE, July 2001).

#### **Gastrointestinal Tumour Group**

- Adjuvant chemoradiotherapy for gastric carcinoma (protocol GIGAI, August 2001).

#### **Leukemia/BMT Tumour Group**

- Interferon and cytarabine for chronic myeloid leukemia (protocol CMLIFNCYT, November 2000).
- Anagrelide for second-line therapy of thrombocytosis in patients progressing after hydroxyurea and interferon or intolerant of these treatments (protocol LKANAG, May 2001).

#### **Lymphoma Tumour Group**

- CHOP + rituximab in first-line therapy for advanced stage diffuse large cell lymphoma (protocol LYCHOP-R, March 2001).

### **Funding is being sought for the following programs**

1. **Gemcitabine/cisplatin** for metastatic transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder: This program is highly ranked by the BCCA Priorities and Evaluation Committee (PEC) and is available through the undesignated indication process.
2. **Capecitabine or raltitrexed** for first-line treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer in frail patients or those living a long distance from a treatment centre: This highly-ranked program by PEC is available through the undesignated indication process.
3. **Amifostine** in conjunction with radiation therapy for patients having extensive radiation to salivary glands for head and neck cancer.: This proposal is highly ranked by PEC but still lacks sufficient funding and access is currently not available.

### **Funding is not available for the following programs**

#### **Melanoma Tumour Group**

- High dose interferon alpha as adjuvant therapy in node positive melanoma (not recommended by PEC for funding).
- Temozolomide for metastatic malignant melanoma (lower ranking by PEC).

### **Urgent new program request**

The Provincial Leukemia/BMT Tumour Group has requested funding for STI571 (imatinib, Glivec®, Gleevec®) as second-line therapy for chronic myeloid leukemia. This proposal has been submitted urgently to the Ministry of Health as we anticipate this drug will be approved for sale in Canada very soon.

### **Challenges in oncology drug management**

The growth in incidence of cancer, largely driven by the aging baby-boomer population, and the improved survival of patients with metastatic cancer who become eligible for new treatments, is driving the growth in the oncology drug budget. The rapid emergence of a wide variety of effective and costly new drugs occurring at a time when health care dollars are constrained in this province, will continue to be challenging in the future. Priority setting will continue to be essential in ensuring that

our patients have access to evidence-based best practices in oncology care.

If we predict that major deficits are likely to emerge in our cancer drug budget, all efforts will be made to secure appropriate resources from the Ministry of Health for essential services. Should resources be insufficient to meet needs then provincial tumour group members and members of the community oncology program will be asked to engage in advising the Provincial Systemic Therapy Program regarding any priority setting for treatment programs.

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

### REMINDER

#### TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR ONCOLOGY DRUGS FROM PHARMACARE TO BCCA

Pharmacare will be transferring the cancer drug budget to the BCCA on 4 September, 2001. The medications that are affected are currently listed on both the BCCA Benefit Drug List and the Pharmacare Benefit List. As of 4 September, the following medications will only be available for reimbursement via the BCCA:

buserelin	hydroxyurea
busulfan	lomustine
chlorambucil	leuprolide
cyproterone	melphalan
diethylstilbestrol	mercaptopurine
estramustine	mitotane
etoposide	nilutamide
flutamide	tamoxifen
goserelin	thioguanine

For non-cancer indications, physicians may request coverage from Pharmacare through the special authority process.

### PROTOCOL UPDATE

#### Protocols by Drugs Index

A cross-referenced index lists the BCCA benefit drugs with their corresponding protocols. This index can be obtained via H-drive at regional cancer centres or Fax-back as listed at the end of the Update.

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

- **INDEX to BCCA Protocol Summaries** revised monthly (includes tumour group, protocol code, indication, drugs, last revision date and version)
- **BRAVCLOD** revised (IV clodronate infusion time): Therapy of bone metastases in breast cancer using oral clodronate
- **BRAVTRAP** revised (contact physician, eligibility, trastuzumab schedule changed to q3w): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using trastuzumab (Herceptin®) and paclitaxel (Taxol®) as first-line treatment for recurrent breast cancer refractory to anthracycline chemotherapy
- **UBRAVTR** revised (contact physician, monitoring, schedule changed to q3w): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using trastuzumab (Herceptin®)
- **GIGAI** new: Combined modality adjuvant therapy for completely resected gastric adenocarcinoma using fluorouracil + folinic acid (leucovorin) + radiation therapy
- **UGUGEMCIS** new (undesigned indication approval required): Palliative therapy for urothelial carcinoma using cisplatin and gemcitabine
- **LYABVD** revised (antiemetics): Treatment of Hodgkin's disease with doxorubicin, bleomycin, vinblastine, and dacarbazine
- **LYCHOP** revised (antiemetics): Treatment of lymphoma with doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine and prednisone (CHOP)
- **LYCHOP-R** revised (antiemetics, schedule clarified): Treatment of lymphoma with doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine, prednisone and rituximab
- **LYCVP** revised (antiemetics): Treatment of advanced indolent lymphoma using cyclophosphamide, vincristine, prednisone (**CVP**)
- **LYCYCLO** revised (antiemetics): Therapy of lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, chronic lymphocytic leukemia or multiple myeloma using cyclophosphamide

- **LYODBEP** revised (antiemetics): Treatment of Hodgkin's disease with vincristine, doxorubicin, bleomycin, etoposide and prednisone
- **LYSNCC** revised (antiemetics): Treatment of Burkitt lymphoma with cyclophosphamide and methotrexate
- **SCHYPCAL** revised (zoledronic acid and retreatment added): Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of malignancy related hypercalcemia (Note: treatment of hypercalcemia is not a BCCA benefit)

---

#### PRE-PRINTED ORDER UPDATE

Pre-printed orders should always be checked with the most current BCCA protocol summaries. The Vancouver Cancer Centre has prepared the following chemotherapy pre-printed orders, which can be used as a guide for reference:

- **BRAVDOC** revised (Class II form, labs and priming instructions): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using docetaxel
- **BRAVTAX** revised (Class II form, labs, appointments): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using paclitaxel (Taxol®)
- **GIFUR2** revised (cycle #3 orders and bookings): Combined modality adjuvant therapy for high risk rectal carcinoma using fluorouracil, leucovorin, and radiation therapy
- **GOSMCC2** new: Treatment of small cell carcinoma of cervix using paclitaxel, cisplatin, etoposide and carboplatin with radiation
- **GUBEP** revised (treatment): Bleomycin, etoposide, cisplatin for nonseminoma germ cell cancers
- **LUDOC** revised (labs and priming instructions): Second-line treatment for advanced non-small cell lung cancer with docetaxel
- **LUPE** revised (add orders for etoposide reactions): Therapy for SCLC and selected advanced non-small cell lung cancer using cisplatin/etoposide chemotherapy

- **LYABVD** revised (antiemetics) Treatment of Hodgkin's disease with doxorubicin, bleomycin, vinblastine, and dacarbazine
- **LYCHOP** revised (antiemetics) Treatment of lymphoma with doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine and prednisone (CHOP)
- **LYCHOP-R** revised (antiemetics): Treatment of lymphoma with doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine, prednisone and rituximab
- **LYCVP** revised (antiemetics) Treatment of advanced indolent lymphoma using cyclophosphamide, vincristine, prednisone (CVP)
- **LYODBEP** revised (antiemetics) Treatment of Hodgkin's disease with vincristine, doxorubicin, bleomycin, etoposide and prednisone
- **LYSNCC** revised (antiemetics) Treatment of Burkitt lymphoma with cyclophosphamide and methotrexate
- **SAVIM** revised (antiemetics, orders for hr 11-24, protocol code and bookings): Therapy for newly diagnosed Ewing's sarcoma/peripheral neuroectodermal tumor or rhabdomyosarcoma or advanced sarcomas using etoposide, ifosfamide-mesna

An index to the orders can be obtained by Fax-back.

---

#### Editorial Review Board

Robin O'Brien, PharmD (Acting Editor)

Sharon Allan, MD  
 Sandi Broughton, BA(Econ), MSc  
 Jack Chritchley, MD  
 Karen Janes, MSN  
 David Noble, BSc, BLS  
 Jaya Venkatesh, BBA, MHA  
 Susan Walisser, BSc(Pharm)

Gigi Concon (Secretary)

<b>IN TOUCH</b>	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca">www.bccancer.bc.ca</a>	<a href="mailto:bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca">bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
BC Cancer Agency	(604)-877-6000	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333
Communities Oncology Network	Ext 2744	<a href="mailto:jchritch@bccancer.bc.ca">jchritch@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
Nursing Professional Practice	Ext 2623	<a href="mailto:ilundie@bccancer.bc.ca">ilundie@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
Pharmacy Professional Practice	Ext 2247	<a href="mailto:gconcon@bccancer.bc.ca">gconcon@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
Provincial Systemic Therapy Program	Ext 2247	<a href="mailto:gconcon@bccancer.bc.ca">gconcon@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
Communities Oncology Network Pharmacist	Ext 2515	<a href="mailto:francish@bccancer.bc.ca">francish@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
Drug Information	Ext 3028	<a href="mailto:robrien@bccancer.bc.ca">robrien@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
Library / Cancer Information	Ext 2690	<a href="mailto:dnoble@bccancer.bc.ca">dnoble@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
Update Editor	Ext 2288	<a href="mailto:mdelemos@bccancer.bc.ca">mdelemos@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
Cancer Centre for the Southern Interior (CCSI)	(250) 712-3900	Toll-Free 1-(888)-563-7773
Fraser Valley Cancer Centre (FVCC)	(604)-930-2098	Toll-Free 1-(800)-523-2885
Vancouver Cancer Centre (VCC)	(604)-877-6000	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333
Vancouver Island Cancer Centre (VICC)	(250) 519-5500	Toll-Free 1-(800)-670-3322

**BCCA SYSTEMIC THERAPY UPDATE FAX REQUEST FORM**

FAX (604) 877-0585

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****PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MAKE COPIES FOR YOUR COLLEAGUES**

I WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE THIS INFORMATION VIA:

 E-mail (Word 6.0)

@

 Fax

( )

Attn:

**UPDATES** Please  Fax-Back information below:

<input type="checkbox"/> All items	
<b>Patient Handouts:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> anagrelide	<input type="checkbox"/> anastrozole
<input type="checkbox"/> bicalutamide	<input type="checkbox"/> BRAJAC
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAJCAF	<input type="checkbox"/> BRAJCEF
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAJCMF	<input type="checkbox"/> BRAJCMFPO
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAJTAM	<input type="checkbox"/> BRAVCAF
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAVCMF	<input type="checkbox"/> BRAVTAM
<input type="checkbox"/> cabergoline	<input type="checkbox"/> capecitabine
<input type="checkbox"/> clodronate	<input type="checkbox"/> docetaxel (Taxotere)
<input type="checkbox"/> gemcitabine	<input type="checkbox"/> irinotecan
<input type="checkbox"/> letrozole	<input type="checkbox"/> octreotide (Sandostatin LAR)
<input type="checkbox"/> pamidronate	<input type="checkbox"/> raltitrexed
<input type="checkbox"/> rituximab	<input type="checkbox"/> temozolomide
<input type="checkbox"/> thalidomide	<input type="checkbox"/> topotecan
<input type="checkbox"/> trastuzumab (Herceptin)	<input type="checkbox"/> vinorelbine
<b>Pre-Printed Orders:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAVDOC	<input type="checkbox"/> LYABVD
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAVTAX	<input type="checkbox"/> LYCHOP
<input type="checkbox"/> GIFUR2	<input type="checkbox"/> LYCHOP-R
<input type="checkbox"/> GOSMCC2	<input type="checkbox"/> LYCVP
<input type="checkbox"/> GUBEP	<input type="checkbox"/> LYODBEP
<input type="checkbox"/> LUDOC	<input type="checkbox"/> LYSNCC
<input type="checkbox"/> LUPE	<input type="checkbox"/> SAVIM
<input type="checkbox"/> Index: Pre-Printed Orders	
<b>Protocol Summaries:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAVCLOD	<input type="checkbox"/> LYCHOP-R
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAVTRAP	<input type="checkbox"/> LYCVP
<input type="checkbox"/> UBRAVTR	<input type="checkbox"/> LYCYCLO
<input type="checkbox"/> GIGAI	<input type="checkbox"/> LYODBEP
<input type="checkbox"/> UGUGEMCIS	<input type="checkbox"/> LYSNCC
<input type="checkbox"/> LYABVD	<input type="checkbox"/> SCHYPCAL
<input type="checkbox"/> LYCHOP	
<input type="checkbox"/> Index: Protocol Summaries (current month)	<input type="checkbox"/> Index: Protocols by Drugs Index
<b>Reimbursement</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefit Drug List (01 July 2001)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 2 Form (01 July 2001)	
<b>Systemic Therapy Update Index</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan-Dec 2000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jan-Jun 2001

**REGIONAL CANCER CENTRE ACCESS**

<b>BULLETIN UPDATES</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	
Patient Handouts:	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Pt_Educ	
Anagrelide	BRAVCAF	Letrozole
Anastrozole	BRAVCMF	Octreotide (Sandostatin LAR)
Bicalutamide	BRAVTAM	Pamidronate
BRAJAC	Capecitabine	Raltitrexed
BRAJCAF	Cabergoline	Rituximab
BRAJCEF	Clodronate	Temozolomide
BRAJCMF	Docetaxel	Thalidomide
BRAJCMFPO	Gemcitabine	Topotecan
BRAJTAM	Irinotecan	Trastuzumab
		Vinorelbine
Pre-Printed Orders	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Orders\VCC	
Index of Pre-Printed Orders		Index.doc
BRAVDOC	LUDOC	LYCVP
BRAVTAX	LUPE	LYODBEP
GIFUR2	LYABVD	LYSNCC
GOSMCC2	LYCHOP	SAVIM
GUBEP	LYCHOP-R	
Protocol Summaries	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol\tumour site"	
Index of Protocol Summaries		Index_NT or Index_W6
<b>Index of Protocols by Drugs</b>		Protocol by drug index
BRAVCLOD	LYABVD	LYCYCLO
BRAVTRAP	LYCHOP	LYODBEP
UBRAVTR	LYCHOP-R	LYSNCC
GIGAI	LYCVP	SCHYPCAL
UGUGEMCIS		
Reimbursement	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Reimburs	
Benefit Drug List (1 July 2001)		BenefitList.doc
Class 2 Form (1 July 2001)		Class2.doc
<b>Systemic Therapy Update Index</b>	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Update	

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

We appreciate your comments. Write us at [bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca)