



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- [Drug update – Gefitinib \(Iressa®, ZD 1839\)](#)

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

DRUG UPDATE

Gefitinib (Iressa®, ZD 1839) 250 mg PO per day has recently been granted conditional approval by [Health Canada](#) as monotherapy (third line therapy) for the treatment of patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) who have failed prior platinum-based and docetaxel chemotherapy.

Until now, this drug has been available free of charge through the Special Access Programme (called Expanded Access Programme for this drug). Physicians needed undesignated approval from BCCA and SAP approval from Health Canada and AstraZeneca in order to use gefitinib. With the Health Canada approval, the Expanded Access Programme will no longer be available for this drug for any indications. The following interim changes have been made:

1. **Patients currently receiving gefitinib:** Patients will continue to receive free drug until their therapy is stopped. Physicians need to withdraw the patients from the Expanded Access Programme and then apply to the Iressa® Patient Assistance Program (IPAP).
2. **New lung cancer patients starting gefitinib:** New patients will not be reimbursed by the BCCA at the present time. Over the next four months, new patients who fit the Health Canada approved indication can apply to the IPAP and receive free drug throughout their treatment. Physicians treating these patients will still need to receive [BCCA undesignated approval](#).

New lung cancer patients who do not fit the Health Canada approved indication will not be reimbursed by the IPAP or the BCCA at the present time.

3. **Head and Neck cancer patients:** New patients will not be reimbursed by the IPAP or the BCCA at the present time.

Applying for Iressa® Patient Assistance Program (IPAP)

The BCCA has set up the following at the regional cancer centres (see also attached [flow chart](#)):

Step 1. If applicable, physicians should withdraw patients from the Expanded Access Programme by sending the completed [EAP Withdrawal Form](#) to the pharmacy.

Step 2. Physicians send the completed [IPAP Application Form](#) and [New Supply Form](#) to the pharmacy, which will review and send them to the IPAP. Note that certain sections of the IPAP Application Form are not relevant to patients in BC:

(a) section 2, Third Party Billing information – please disregard.

(b) section 5, Signatures – patient's signature is required but not the Primary Insurance Holder's signature.

Once approved, the IPAP will send one month's supply to the hospital pharmacy.

Step 3. For further supply, fax the completed [Repeat Form](#) to the IPAP.

Relevant application forms are available from the IPAP (tel. 1-866-473-7720, fax. 1-866-706-2830). For the regional centres of the BC Cancer Agency, these forms can also be obtained from the h-drive [systemic chemo reimbursement forms](#).

For more information, call the BCCA Undesignated Indication Requests at (604) 877-6277 or 1-800 633-3333 local 6277.

Editorial Review Board

Mário de Lemos, MSc, PharmD (Editor)
Cicely Bryce, MD
Johanna Den Duyf, MA
Karen Janes, MSN

Laurel Kovacic, BSc (Pharm)
Beth Morrison, MLS
Jaya Venkatesh, MHA
Gigi Concon (Secretary)

In Touch	www.bccancer.bc.ca	bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca
BC Cancer Agency	(604)-877-6000	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333
Communities Oncology Network	Ext 2744	jvenkate@bccancer.bc.ca
Education Resource Nurse	Ext 2638	nursinged@bccancer.bc.ca
Nursing Professional Practice	Ext 2623	ilundie@bccancer.bc.ca
Pharmacy Professional Practice	Ext 2247	gconcon@bccancer.bc.ca
Provincial Systemic Therapy Program	Ext 2247	gconcon@bccancer.bc.ca
Communities Oncology Network Pharmacist	Ext 6277	francish@bccancer.bc.ca
Drug Information	Ext 6275	robrien@bccancer.bc.ca
Library / Cancer Information	Ext 2690	bethm@bccancer.bc.ca
Update Editor	Ext 2288	mdelemos@bccancer.bc.ca
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

BC CANCER AGENCY SYSTEMIC THERAPY UPDATE 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 LOCAL 2247

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MAKE COPIES FOR YOUR COLLEAGUES

I WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE THIS INFORMATION VIA:

E-mail (Word 6.0)

Fax

	@
()	Attn:

Items have been hyperlinked for easy access at regional cancer centres

Gefitinib (Iressa®) Patient Assistance Procedures	
	Shortcut to Gefitinib (Iressa) Forms.Ink
<input type="checkbox"/>	Undesignated Indication Application Form
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expanded Assistance Programme (EAP) Withdrawal Form
<input type="checkbox"/>	Iressa® Patient Assistance Program (IPAP) Application Form
<input type="checkbox"/>	Iressa® Patient Assistance Program (IPAP) New Supply Form
<input type="checkbox"/>	Iressa® Patient Assistance Program (IPAP) Repeat Form