



Dear

According to our records you are coming to the end of your five years of tamoxifen therapy. We are writing to you to suggest that you see your family doctor to discuss a new policy that has been approved by the BC Cancer Agency. This policy is based on results of a large study, which have shown some women may benefit from additional hormonal therapy with a drug named letrozole (also known as Femara) after they complete five years of tamoxifen therapy.

You are eligible for this treatment if you

- Are **postmenopausal**
- Have had **ER+** (estrogen receptor positive) **Invasive** breast cancer
  - (Femara has not been shown to benefit DCIS)
- Have received **4.5 - 5 years of tamoxifen**, and are either still on it or have completed tamoxifen within the past year
- Have remained **free of recurrence**.
- Have not previously had treatment with an aromatase inhibitor (anastrozole, letrozole, or exemestane)

At this time the recommended duration of letrozole therapy is 3 years, although this may be revised with further information. Please contact your family doctor if you are interested in considering letrozole and want to discuss this option.

Whether you take letrozole will require a discussion about what your risk of breast cancer relapse is at this time. If you have a very small risk of relapsing you may not want to consider taking another medication. Alternatively if you have a higher risk, you may want to discuss it further. We do not recommend treatment with letrozole if your cancer was low risk, that is node negative, low grade and small (less than 2 cm) as the benefit of letrozole may be small compared to the risks.

The side effects of letrozole should be discussed with your physician. Side effects such as hot flashes, nausea and more importantly a slight increased risk for osteoporosis over time needs to be factored into your decision. Your family doctor will have more information about side effects associated with letrozole.

Further public information is available on the BCCA website – [www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca) located in the following section – Health Professionals Info / Drug Database / Patient Information / letrozole. You and your family doctor may wish to contact your oncologist if you need further information.

Yours sincerely