



# Systemic Therapy Update

Volume 11, Number 12 *for health professionals who care for cancer patients* December 2008  
Website access at <http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/stupdate.htm>

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- [Editor's Choice](#) – Provincial Systemic Therapy Program Policies: Systemic Therapy Treatment Delivery Process
- [Highlights of Changes in Protocols, Pre-Printed Orders and Patient Handouts](#) – Lenalidomide for Multiple Myeloma, Protocol Specific Patient Information for Gastrointestinal Tumour Protocols, High Dose Methotrexate Protocols
- [Drug Update – Temozolomide Capsules](#)
- [List of New and Revised Protocols, Pre-Printed Orders and Patient Handouts](#): **New:** GIAJCAP, GIAVCAP, GIFUINF, GIRCAP, UMYLENDEX **Revised:** LYHDMRP, LYHDMTXP, LYHDMTXR, SAHDMTX
- [Website Resources](#)

[IN TOUCH](#) phone list is provided if additional information is needed.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE:

### PROVINCIAL SYSTEMIC THERAPY PROGRAM POLICIES

**Systemic Therapy Treatment Delivery Process (Policy III-10)** has been revised. Registered Nurse Practitioners (NP) can now renew a prescription of *adjuvant* tamoxifen or an aromatase inhibitor (anastrozole, letrozole, exemestane) for patients with breast cancer treated with a BC Cancer Agency protocol. Prescriptions must include the appropriate Protocol Code (BRAJANAS, BRAJEXE, BRAJLET, BRAJTAM) and the prescribing signature should indicate the designation (NP) and the CRNBC registration number. Note that currently this is the only indication for anti-cancer drugs which can be prescribed by Nurse Practitioners. Registered nurse practitioners are listed on the website of the College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia (CRNBC) ([www.crnbc.ca/RegRenewal/NPRegRenewal/NPlist.aspx](http://www.crnbc.ca/RegRenewal/NPRegRenewal/NPlist.aspx)).

A number of resources are available on the BC Cancer Agency website:

- Cancer Management Guidelines: Use of Adjuvant Hormonal Therapy (Breast Cancer): [www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/CancerManagementGuidelines/Breast/Management/04+Adjuvant+Hormonal+Therapy](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/CancerManagementGuidelines/Breast/Management/04+Adjuvant+Hormonal+Therapy)
- Treatment Protocols: access via links in the above document or at: [www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Breast/default](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Breast/default) (BRAJANAS, BRAJEXE, BRAJLET, BRAJTAM)
- Drug information: (monographs and patient information) [www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/DrugDatabase/default](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/DrugDatabase/default)
- Information about clinical trials: [www.bccancer.bc.ca/RES/ClinTrials/default](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/RES/ClinTrials/default)
- Systemic Therapy Treatment Delivery Process (Policy III-10) [www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Policies](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Policies)
- Systemic Therapy Update [www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/stupdate](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/stupdate)
- Breast Cancer Nursing Education Resource [www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/Nursing/Education/breastcancer/default](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/Nursing/Education/breastcancer/default)

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

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The **Lymphoma and Myeloma Tumour Group** has introduced a new unfunded protocol with lenalidomide and dexamethasone (UMYLENDEX). This combination regimen is for patients with multiple myeloma that has progressed despite at least one program of treatment. There is currently no funding for lenalidomide for this indication by the BC Cancer Agency. To access lenalidomide:

1. the physician needs to obtain BCCA Compassionate Access Program approval
2. the physician needs to be registered with the RevAid® program
3. the physician needs to register the patient with the RevAid® program, which assists the patient in investigating the potential for third party funding and compassionate supply by the manufacturer Celgene.

The drug is dispensed by McKesson Pharmacy to a BCCA regional centre pharmacy, where the patient obtains the supply. More details available at [www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/sapchart](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/sapchart).

**New Gastrointestinal Protocol Patient Handouts** Five new information handouts have been developed for patients undergoing chemotherapy. The patient handouts match existing treatment protocols GIAJCAP, GIAVCAP, GIFUINF, GIRCAP.

This is part of an ongoing effort by the Systemic Therapy Program and the Tumour Groups to provide more information resources for patients. Currently, there are 70 patient protocol handouts available on the BC Cancer Agency website, with more in development. Protocol specific handouts are useful in educating patients on the overall treatment plan, particularly for those involving combination regimens. They may also help prevent errors or unnecessary toxicity by better informing patients about their own care during the treatment course.

All **High Dose Methotrexate Protocols** have been revised to include a reminder to require two physicians' signatures to be consistent with the existing PPPOs. This requirement is to reduce the risk of error and to ensure patient safety.

### DRUG UPDATE – TEMOZOLOMIDE CAPSULES

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**Temozolomide** (TEMODAL®) is now also available 140 mg and 180 mg capsules, in addition to the 100 mg and 250 mg strengths. The new strengths are also funded by the BC Cancer Agency for the existing class II indications on the Benefit List.

## LIST OF NEW AND REVISED PROTOCOLS, PRE-PRINTED ORDERS AND PATIENT HANDOUTS

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**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
GIAJCAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adjuvant Therapy Of Colon Cancer Using Capecitabine
GIAVCAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Palliative Chemotherapy For Advanced Colorectal Cancer Using Capecitabine

CODE	Protocol	PPPO	Patient Handout	Protocol Title
GIFUINF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Palliative Chemotherapy For Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Using Infusional Fluorouracil
GIRCAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adjuvant Therapy For Stage II And III Rectal Cancer Using Capecitabine, For Patients Previously Treated With Radiation Therapy And Surgery
UMYLENDEX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Therapy of Multiple Myeloma Using Lenalidomide with Dexamethasone

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

CODE	Protocol	PPPO	Patient Handout	Changes	Protocol Title
LYHDMRP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Reminder for double signature added</i>	Treatment of Primary Intracerebral Lymphoma with High Dose Methotrexate and Rituximab
LYHDMTXP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Reminder for double signature added</i>	Treatment of Primary Intracerebral Lymphoma with High Dose Methotrexate
LYHDMTXR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Reminder for double signature added</i>	Treatment of Leptomeningeal Lymphoma or Recurrent Intracerebral Lymphoma with High Dose Methotrexate
SAHDMTX	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Reminder for double signature added</i>	Treatment of Osteosarcoma Using High Dose Methotrexate with Leucovorin Rescue

**WEBSITE RESOURCES**

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

REIMBURSEMENT AND FORMS: BENEFIT DRUG LIST, CLASS II, COMPASSIONATE ACCESS PROGRAM (UNDESIGNATED INDICATION)	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Forms">www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Forms</a>
CANCER DRUG MANUAL	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/cdm">www.bccancer.bc.ca/cdm</a>
CANCER MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/CaMgmtGuidelines">www.bccancer.bc.ca/CaMgmtGuidelines</a>
CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY PROTOCOLS	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/ChemoProtocols">www.bccancer.bc.ca/ChemoProtocols</a>
CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY PRE-PRINTED ORDERS	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/ChemoProtocols">www.bccancer.bc.ca/ChemoProtocols</a> under the index page of each tumour site
SYSTEMIC THERAPY PROGRAM POLICIES	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Policies">www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Policies</a>
UNCONVENTIONAL CANCER THERAPIES MANUAL	under Patient/Public Info, Unconventional Therapies

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<b>IN TOUCH</b>	<u><a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca">www.bccancer.bc.ca</a></u>	<u><a href="mailto:bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca">bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca</a></u>
BC CANCER AGENCY .....	(604) 877-6000 .....	Toll-Free 1-(800) 663-3333
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