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

PROTOCOL 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)
 - Cyclophosphamide dose modification for hepatic dysfunction was deleted from the following protocols:

▪ BRAJAC	▪ BRAVCMF
▪ BRAJCAF	▪ BRAVCMFO
▪ BRAJCEF	▪ BRINFCAF
▪ BRAJCMF	▪ BRLA2
▪ BRAJCMFO	▪ LUALTL
▪ BRAVAC	▪ LUCAV
▪ BRAVCAF	
- BRAVCLOD revised (pamidronate infusion rate changed): Therapy of bone metastases in breast cancer using oral clodronate
- BRAVLEN deleted (formestane [Lentaron®] discontinued by manufacturer): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using formestane depot
- BRAVNAV revised (antiemetic protocol added): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using vinorelbine
- BRAVPAM revised (pamidronate infusion rate changed): Treatment of acute bone pain secondary to breast cancer metastases using pamidronate
- BRAVTAX revised (arthralgia/myalgia management changed): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using paclitaxel
- GIEFUP revised (reformatted): Combined modality therapy for advanced esophageal cancer using fluorouracil, cisplatin and radiation therapy

- GOENDCAT revised (arthralgia/myalgia management and nadir dose modifications): Treatment of primarily advanced or recurrent endometrial cancer using carboplatin and paclitaxel
- GOOVCATM revised (arthralgia/myalgia management and nadir dose modifications): Primary treatment of invasive epithelial ovarian, fallopian tube and primary peritoneal cancer, with no visible residual tumour (moderate-high risk)
- GOOVCATX revised (arthralgia/myalgia management and nadir dose modifications): Primary treatment of visible residual (extreme risk) invasive epithelial ovarian cancer in ambulatory care settings
- GOOVTAX3 revised (arthralgia/myalgia management changed): Treatment of progressive, platinum refractory epithelial ovarian carcinoma, primary peritoneal carcinoma or fallopian tube carcinoma
- GUBCV revised (eligibility and tests clarified): Carboplatin-vinblastine for transitional cell urinary tract cancers
- GUBEP revised (eligibility revised cumulative bleomycin dose added, antibiotic prophylaxis added): Bleomycin, etoposide, cisplatin for nonseminoma germ cell cancers
- GUBMVAC protocol code changed to GUMVAC
- GUBP revised (editorial revision): Concurrent cisplatin with radiation for locally advanced bladder cancer
- GUBPV revised (dose modifications clarified): Cisplatin, vinblastine for transitional cell cancers
- GUCMV revised (schedule and dose modifications clarified): Cisplatin, methotrexate, vinblastine for transitional cell cancers
- GUEMCYT revised (eligibility revised, dose modifications added): Estramustine for androgen-independent prostate cancer
- GUEP revised (dose modifications revised): Etoposide, cisplatin for nonseminoma germ cell cancer
- GUHIPE2 deleted (replaced by GUBEP): High intensity cisplatin, etoposide, vincristine for nonseminoma germ cell cancers
- GUMXP protocol code changed to GUPMX
- GUMVAC revised (protocol code changed from GUBMVAC): Methotrexate, vinblastine, doxorubicin, cisplatin for transitional cell cancers of the urothelium
- GUPM revised (eligibility clarified, precaution added): Mitomycin for hormone-resistant metastatic carcinoma of the prostate
- GUPMX revised (protocol changed from GUMXP, eligibility and treatment duration revised, mitoxantrone dose escalation defined, dose modifications added): Mitoxantrone and low dose prednisone for hormone resistant prostate cancer
- GUV EIP revised (editorial revision): Nonseminoma consolidation/salvage therapy for germ cell cancer using vinblastine, cisplatin, ifosfamide and mesna
- GUVIP2 revised (editorial revision): Nonseminoma consolidation/ salvage therapy for poor prognosis germ cell cancer using etoposide, cisplatin, ifosfamide and mesna
- LUALTL reformatted: Treatment for limited stage small cell lung cancer alternating cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin and vincristine with etoposide and cisplatin plus early thoracic irradiation
- LUCAV new: Treatment for extensive small cell lung cancer with cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin and vincristine
- LUCAVESE protocol code changed to LUPAVESE
- LUCAVESL protocol code changed to LUPAVESL
- LUNAVP reformatted: Treatment for advanced non-small cell lung cancer with cisplatin and vinorelbine
- LUPAVESE reformatted (protocol code changed from LUCAVESE): Treatment for extensive stage small cell lung cancer with cisplatin, doxorubicin, vincristine and etoposide
- LUPAVESL reformatted (protocol code changed from LUCAVESL): Treatment for limited stage small cell lung cancer with cisplatin, doxorubicin, vincristine and etoposide, and cisplatin and etoposide concurrent with early thoracic irradiation

- LUPE reformatted: Palliative therapy of selected solid tumours using cisplatin and etoposide
- LUPESL new: Treatment for limited stage small cell lung cancer with etoposide and cisplatin and early thoracic irradiation
- LUPOE reformatted: Palliative therapy for extensive small cell lung cancer with oral etoposide
- LUVIN new: Treatment for advanced non-small cell lung cancer with vinorelbine in elderly patients
- LYACOP12 revised (tests, premedications and filgrastim dose added, cyclophosphamide dose revised): Treatment of lymphoma with doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine and prednisone
- LYFLU revised (irradiated blood products precaution added): Treatment of low grade lymphoma or chronic lymphocytic leukaemia using fludarabine
- LYHDMTX new: Treatment of leptomeningeal lymphoma or recurrent intracerebral lymphoma with high dose methotrexate
- LYSNCC revised (exclusions, tests, premedications and hydration added): Treatment of Burkitt lymphoma with cyclophosphamide and methotrexate
- MYPAM revised (pamidronate infusion rate changed): Treatment of multiple myeloma with pamidronate
- OSHDMTX reformatted: Treatment of osteosarcoma using high dose methotrexate with leucovorin rescue
- SCNAUSEA revised: Antiemetic guidelines
- SAVIM revised (changes in eligibility, etoposide dilution volume, antiemetic guideline, dose reduction, filgrastim, venous access precaution): Etoposide, ifosfamide-mesna for patients with newly diagnosed Ewing's sarcoma/peripheral neuroectodermal tumour or rhabdomyosarcoma or advanced sarcomas
- UBRAVTR under revision: Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using trastuzumab (Herceptin®)
- UBRAVTRAP new (replaces Special Access

Program protocol UBRAVTRPA): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using trastuzumab (Herceptin®) and paclitaxel as first-line treatment for recurrent breast cancer refractory to anthracycline adjuvant chemotherapy

- UBRAVTRPA deleted (replaced by UBRAVTRAP)
- UMOHDMTX new: Treatment of meningeal disease (miscellaneous tumour origins) using high dose methotrexate with leucovorin rescue

PATIENT HANDOUTS

Warfarin revised (herbal interactions added)

There are increasing reports of bleeding problems associated with herbal products and on their interactions with warfarin. While some herbal products affect INR due to their high vitamin K contents, others alter warfarin pharmacokinetics or platelet aggregation. Herbal products with potential warfarin interactions are not necessarily contraindicated, but patients may require more INR monitoring and dosing adjustments. Patients taking warfarin are advised to seek expert advice regarding potential interactions with herbal products.

Sharp or Contaminated Supplies Disposal

Revised (see below under Nursing Practice Tips).

PREPRINTED ORDERS

Vancouver Cancer Centre in-patient and out-patient preprinted orders are now available for Communities Oncology reference. An index to the orders can be obtained by Fax-back.

DRUG UPDATE

BCG Interchangeability The supplier Faulding no longer provides the PACIS brand of BCG. The BCCA Genitourinary Tumour Group has reviewed and determined that the three BCG substrains on the market (i.e., Montréal 120 mg, TICE 50 mg, Connaught 81 mg) are clinically comparable for the treatment of bladder cancer. Hence, these three products are considered interchangeable for contracting purposes. The full mg dose will depend on the reimbursable product but is generally supplied in one vial. BCG should be reconstituted per manufacturer's instructions using preservative-free solution. When switching to the new brand of

BCG, please review the product monograph to confirm dosing information. The BCCA treatment protocol is being revised and will be circulated with the future issue of the Systemic Therapy Update. Effective immediately the BCHS contract is with Faulding for the OncoTice 50 mg product (CPDN code: 966757; Faulding code: 98752). The contract will expire on 31 March, 2000.

Benzydamine Pharmacare Authorisation

Pharmacare has pre-approved any prescriptions for benzydamine 0.15% solution (low cost alternative for Tantum® mouthwash) from the following prescribers:

- physicians with College Specialties M26 (medical oncology) and M55 (radiation oncology),
- physicians with existing special authorisation for ondansetron, and
- identified dentists (Drs. Epstein, Stevenson-Moore, Coil, Fung and Hovan).

The special authority form is not required for these prescriptions. The authorisation is loaded into the PharmaNet and assigned to the prescribers under their practitioner College ID numbers.

Vincristine Labelling

The Provincial Systemic Program Committee has approved the Risk Management Policy V-40 which states that all parenteral syringes containing vinca alkaloids prepared at the BCCA pharmacies are required to bear a prominent warning label on the syringe barrel "WARNING: FATAL IF GIVEN INTRATHECALLY". Please refer to Update Nov 1998 for more detailed information.

Fludarabine potentially life-threatening transfusion-related graft-versus-host-disease has been described in patients actively receiving fludarabine. The Canadian Blood Service recommends that patients on fludarabine should receive irradiated blood products, effectively eliminating this risk.

Formestane the manufacturer has discontinued this product due to lack of usage.

Trastuzumab (Herceptin®) Special Access Program for this monoclonal antibody has been discontinued. Use of this agent for breast cancer

treatment requires an approval under the BCCA "Individual Use of Benefit Drug List Medication for an Undesignated Indication".

CANCER DRUG MANUAL

Cyclophosphamide dose modification for hepatic dysfunction has been deleted from the monograph.

Paclitaxel arthralgia and myalgia management has been changed to include gabapentin, prednisone and glutamine.

NEW PROVINCIAL DRUG INFORMATION COORDINATOR

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Mário de Lemos, BSc(Hons)(Pharm), MSc(Clin Pharm), PharmD, has joined the Systemic Therapy Program as the Provincial Drug Information Coordinator. He will be responsible for coordinating drug and protocol information as well as education related to all aspects of cancer therapy for healthcare professionals and patients throughout the province. Dr. de Lemos joins Dr. Robin O'Brien as a drug information resource for the Agency and province. Dr. de Lemos can be reached via e-mail or via phone at VCC local 2288. He is available Monday to Friday

NURSING PRACTICE TIPS

Filgrastim (G-CSF): Administration of 1st Dose
Due to the risk of anaphylaxis, both the Nursing Practice Committee and Provincial Pharmacy Professional Practice Council recommend that the first dose be given in a health care facility and not in the home setting.

Safe Disposal of Sharps and Contaminated

Medical Supplies at Home: Revision

The attached revised patient handout now instructs patients to place empty IV chemotherapy containers (OutBound infusers, IV bags if disconnected at home) in a ziploc bag labelled "chemotherapy: dispose of properly" and return them to the Chemotherapy Unit on their next visit. The old 1995 version instructed patients to discard them into the domestic garbage.

COMMUNITIES ONCOLOGY NETWORK

PANDA System Replacement:

BCCA is upgrading the PANDA system to a new

Y2K compliant version and the process should be complete by early December 1999. This is the first step towards developing an improved and more efficient system to better meet the needs of our clients. The new version is very similar to the current system so there should be no disruption to your pharmacy during this process. The only noticeable changes will be:

1. All claims will be assigned an unique BCCA Claim Number by the system. This Claim Number will be included on the new version of the Rejection Summary Report and must be returned with all resubmissions,
2. Inclusion of either the patient's BCCA # or Personal Health Number (PHN) on paper invoice submissions (electronic invoices will not be changed in the short-term).

A new version of the Drug Reimbursement Form (with the new PHN and Claim ID fields) will be forwarded to your hospital within the next 6 weeks. The implementation of the new software is planned to follow this schedule:

September 1999	Final programming of the software
October-November 1999	Final testing and parallel run (3 hospital sites)
Early December 1999	All invoices entered into new system

Any questions about this upgrade/conversion can be directed to either Francis Hu (CON Pharmacist) at (604) 877-6098 ext. 2515 or Jeff Barnett (Pharmacy Information Analyst) at (250) 370-8938. Additional updates on this project will be supplied in future issues of the Update.

IN TOUCH	www.bccancer.bc.ca	bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca
BC Cancer Agency	(604)-877-6000	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333
Cancer Centre for the Southern Interior (CCSI)	(250) 712-3900	Toll-Free 1-(888)-563-7773
Fraser Valley Cancer Centre (FVCC)	(604)-930-2098	
Vancouver Cancer Centre (VCC)	(604)-877-6000	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333
Vancouver Island Cancer Centre (VICC)	(250) 370-8228	Toll-Free 1-(800)-670-3322
Communities Oncology Network	(604) 877-6098 Ext 2744	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333 Ext 2744
Nursing Professional Practice	(604)-877-6098 Ext 2623	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333 Ext 2623
Pharmacy Professional Practice	(604)-877-6098 Ext 2247	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333 Ext 2247
Provincial Systemic Program	(604)-877-6098 Ext 2247	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333 Ext 2247
Mário de Lemos, Provincial Drug Information Coordinator	(604)-877-6098 Ext 2828	mdelemos@bccancer.bc.ca
Francis Hu, CON Pharmacist	(604)-877-6098 Ext 2515	francish@bccancer.bc.ca
Robin O'Brien, Update Editor	(604)-877-6098 Ext 3028	robrien@bccancer.bc.ca

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Communities Oncology Network Annual Meeting will be held on Friday/Saturday the 12/13 of November 1999 at the Delta Pacific Resort in Richmond. Invitations have been sent to the regional oncologists, a representative of the administrative, oncology nursing and oncology pharmacy staff from all the Non-Radiation Cancer Centres. The Friday program will include the following presentations:

- "Octreotide: the fountain of youth?"
- "Provincial Cancer Program" by Dr. Don Carlow, President and CEO of BCCA
- "Patient Information exchange - standardized electronic charting - are we ready?"
- "Funding for Non-Radiation Cancer Centres"

The Saturday program will be devoted to the biology and therapeutics of hematologic malignancies and lymphomas.

If your centre has not yet received their invitations, please contact Jack Chritchley at (604) 877 6183 or Barbie Fiddler at (604) 877 6000 # 2744.

Editorial Review Board

Robin O'Brien, PharmD (Editor)

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RADIATION CANCER CENTRE ACCESS

BULLETIN UPDATES	LOCATION
Patient Handouts:	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Pt_Educ
	H:\\Pt_Educ\warfarin handout.doc
	H:\\Pt_Educ\sharps handout.doc
Index of Preprinted Orders	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\orders\vcc\index.doc
Protocol Summaries	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol
H:\\Protocol\breast\brajac.doc	H:\\Protocol\gu\guemcyt.doc
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Index of Protocol Summaries	H:\\Protocol\Index\Index_NT or Index_W6
Reimbursement	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Reimburs
Benefit Drug List	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Reimburs\Benefit.doc
Class 2 Form	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Reimburs\Class2.doc
Vincristine Labelling Policy	H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\policies\V_RiskMg\V-40.doc

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

We appreciate your comments. Write us at bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca

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 LOCAL 2247

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MAKE COPIES FOR YOUR COLLEAGUES

I WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE THIS INFORMATION VIA:

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Attn:

UPDATES Please Fax-Back information below:

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	Patient Handouts:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Warfarin	
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	Reimbursement	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Benefit Drug List (01Oct 99)	
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