

Systemic Therapy Staff Bulletin

Provincial Systemic Policy Update: Remote Ordering

What is the policy?

There is a new Policy for Provincial Systemic Therapy called **Provincial Policy for Remote Ordering of Systemic Therapy During COVID-19 Pandemic** that outlines the requirements for safe remote ordering of systemic therapy treatment as an interim process pending implementation of a fully integrated Electronic Health Record and Computerized Provider Order Entry.

Why has it been created?

Due to the global pandemic of COVID-19, there will be circumstances where prescribers may need to self isolate and are not able to be on site at the regional cancer centres to order systemic treatments. This is a process for **exceptional circumstances** and not a parallel system to order systemic therapy for prescribers working in a BC Cancer clinic or affiliated site.

How will it be used?

The process for how this policy is implemented is regional. There must be regional procedure and supportive documents that staff are able to access and must follow.

Where can I find this policy?

This Policy will be stored on the [Shared Health Organizations Portal](#)

Are any other policies impacted?

Yes. [Policy III-10 Systemic Therapy Treatment Delivery Process](#) has also been updated.

How often will this Policy be updated?

This Policy will be reviewed on an as needed basis, given the dynamic situation around the COVID-19 pandemic.

Can any prescriber use this process?

No. This is intended for exceptional circumstances only and regional centres must have clear criteria for the approval process for when this approach is to be used. All requirements outlined in the Policy must be applied.

What kind of requirements are outlined?

Please refer to the Policy to ensure your information is up to date. At time of launch, requirements include details on:

- Patient appropriateness and choice

- Exceptions – situations where remote orders must not be used
- Access to Clinical Patient Information, including requirements for new patients and subsequent cycles.
- Prescriber context in connection to COVID-19 restrictions, training, approval process
- Infrastructure and process requirements

Can our Community Oncology Network also utilize this policy?

At this point, this policy scope is limited to the six regional centres, and cannot be utilized by our community partners. This will be reviewed in the upcoming months, as we understand the important relationship and needs of these facilities.

What can I do if others are not following this policy?

If you feel that others are not appropriately following this policy and associated procedures and documentation, please follow the normal channels of escalation. An initial dialogue with the applicable individual is encouraged, with escalation as needed through your manager.

Is this a strategy to reduce footprint in the regional centres?

This is a policy for exceptional circumstances, and at this point- must not be utilized outside of these requirements. Application of the policy only to reduce footprint within a regional centre is not appropriate. Please follow your regional process for approval.

What happens if I had direct contact with a prescriber that is now utilizing remote ordering of systemic therapy? Does this mean I was exposed to COVID-19?

The conditions required for approval of remote ordering for systemic therapy include the scenario that a prescriber has symptoms of a viral illness but is feeling well, and out of the abundance of caution we do not want them to come into our facilities. If there is the potential that you have been exposed to COVID-19, a public health team member will be in touch with you for follow up. In many cases, this would not be a risk. Please do not share if a prescriber is currently utilizing this policy with anyone that does not need to know. It is important to respect the privacy of all individuals concerned.

What is the definition of a prescriber?

This term describes any designated healthcare professional that is able to autonomously prescribe applicable systemic treatment. This includes physicians, General Practitioners of Oncology (GPOs), Clinical Practitioners of Oncology (CPOs) and Nurse Practitioner in Oncology (NPO).

Where can I find connected information?

The following resources are available for more information on remote ordering and virtual care:

- [BC Cancer Virtual Health Guide for Medical Staff](#)
- Guidelines for digital communication and consent (Office of Virtual Care)- located on SHOP
- [Medical Staff Work from Home Guideline](#)
- [Verification of Patient Height and Weight When Using Telehealth for New Patient Consultation during COVID-19](#)

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- [Verification of Patient Weight When Using Telehealth for Return to Clinic Appointments during COVID-19](#)