

British Columbia Cancer Agency

POLICY

Title: FREE SAMPLES OF MEDICATIONS		Number: III-70
Effective Date: 1 August 2002	Approved By: Provincial Systemic Therapy Program	

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POLICY

The use of physician samples and trial sizes of medications (i.e., provided free of charge by the manufacturer) that are otherwise commercially available is not permitted at BCCA unless it

- a) is provided through Health Canada's Special Access Program.
- b) is incorporated into a clinical trial protocol, under the direction of a BCCA principal investigator.
- c) is provided free of charge as part of a Pharmacy-related contract agreement with the manufacturer.

Any such medications will be stored in, under the control of, and distributed by the Centre Pharmacy, who will ensure that Pharmacy standards of practice are met in dispensing it and providing information necessary for its use.

PROCEDURES

1. If a medication will be provided free of charge as part of Health Canada's Special Access Program, the Pharmacy should be contacted in advance to ensure appropriate arrangements are made.
2. If a medication will be provided free of charge as part of a clinical trial, the Clinical Trials Pharmacist should be contacted to ensure appropriate arrangements are made.
3. If a medication will be provided free of charge as part of a Pharmacy-related contract agreement, the Systemic Therapy Program Business Affairs Coordinator and the Chair, Provincial Pharmacy Professional Practice Council will ensure appropriate arrangements are made for financial accounting purposes.

References

1. Coyle, SL, for the Ethics and Human Rights Committee, American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine. Physician-Industry Relations. Part I: Individual Physicians. Ann Int Med 2002; 136:396-402.