

Filgrastim (GCSF) Coverage

Filgrastim (GCSF) is not on the Benefit Drug List. Is it covered by BC Cancer?

Filgrastim is not on the BC Cancer benefit list because it is not used for the active treatment of cancer. It is used to decrease the duration of neutropenia associated with cancer chemotherapy. However, for **inpatients** at BC hospitals only, BC Cancer does cover the drug cost of filgrastim for approved indications as outlined below. Outpatient coverage is through the [BC PharmaCare Special Authority Program](#).

For Inpatients:

- BC Cancer aligns coverage for filgrastim with the BC PharmaCare Special Authority Program.
- Effective January 31, 2017, PharmaCare covers GRASTOFIL™, a biosimilar formulation to NEUPOGEN™.
- Filgrastim is a Limited Coverage Drug through the BC PharmaCare Special Authority Program and the indications for coverage are outlined on the Filgrastim (GRASTOFIL™ type) Special Authority Request Form.
- If the drug is being used for one of the eligible indications, the filgrastim (GRASTOFIL™) may be dispensed and the cost billed via OSCAR to BC Cancer. The indication for filgrastim is filled in at the time of OSCAR billing.
- For indications not listed, the filgrastim may be dispensed at the discretion of the hospital, but the cost will not be reimbursed by BC Cancer.

For Outpatients:

- Outpatients are responsible for the cost of the drug as outlined below.
- The completed Filgrastim (GRASTOFIL™ type) Special Authority Request Form must be faxed to BC PharmaCare. The *BC Cancer Filgrastim (GCSF) Usage Form* is no longer in effect.

- The patient may fill the prescription at a community pharmacy. If the drug is being used for an eligible indication, the cost of the drug will count towards the patient's annual BC PharmaCare deductible.
- Patients should also be directed to check for third party coverage. The Patient and Family Counselling department at BC Cancer centres may be contacted to advise in this process.
- Patients who need assistance in paying for the drug may contact Apobiologix's ANSWERS™ Program that may be able to provide assistance depending on the patient's financial status. Anyone may contact the program on behalf of the patient. It is important that this program is contacted before a prescription is filled. It does not provide retroactive reimbursement. See [Patient Assistance Programs](#) [Systemic Therapy - Reimbursement and Forms] for further information.

Reviewed: February 8, 2017