

September 12, 2019

**NOTICE:  
Health Canada Special Access Programme (SAP) and Research Ethics Board Approval**

The Health Canada Special Access Programme (SAP) allows practitioners to submit a request to Health Canada for access to a drug that is unavailable for sale in Canada. This access is limited to provision to patients with serious or life-threatening conditions on a compassionate or emergency basis when conventional therapies have failed, are unsuitable, or are unavailable. The SAP is not intended to be a mechanism to promote or encourage the early use of drugs or to circumvent the clinical trials review and approval process or the new drug approval process, but rather to provide compassionate access to drugs on a patient by patient basis for clinical reasons not related to research (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/special-access.html>).

Therefore, submission to the BC Cancer Research Ethics Board for review and approval in SAP circumstances is not required. If an application relating to SAP is submitted, it will not be reviewed by the BC Cancer Research Ethics Board.

Regulatory requirements regarding approval, provision, consent, documentation and record-keeping should be obtained from and maintained directly with the Health Canada Special Access Programme (SAP). A practitioner who has obtained Health Canada SAP approval is required to comply with Health Canada SAP regulations, as well as any related institutional requirements.

Should you have any queries, please contact the REB at: [reb@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:reb@bccancer.bc.ca)



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