

## For Health Professionals Who Care for People with Cancer

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**New:** GUAVNIVC, GUAVNIVC4, Ropeginterferon alfa-2b (ULK0)

#### New Protocols, PPPOs and Patient Handouts

**GU** GUAVNIVC, GUAVNIVC4

#### REVISED Protocols, PPPOs and Patient Handouts

**BR** UBRAJABEI, UBRAJABET | **CN** CNMODPCV | **GI** GIGAVCOXN, GIGAVCOXP, GIGAVFFOXN, GIGAVFFOXP | **GU** GUAVIPNI, GUAVNIV, GUAVNIV4, GUAVPEMAX, GUAVPEML, GUAVPEML6, GUAXIT, GUCABO | **LU** LUAJPP | **LY** ULYOGLOFIT

#### Resources and Contact Information

### Editor's Choice

#### New Programs

BC Cancer Provincial Systemic Therapy has approved the following new treatment programs effective 01 April 2025. Full details of all treatment programs are available in the Chemotherapy Protocols section of the BC Cancer website.

#### Genitourinary

**Treatment of Metastatic or Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma using Nivolumab and Cabozantinib (GUAVNIVC, GUAVNIVC4)** – The BC Cancer Genitourinary Tumour Group is introducing nivolumab in combination with cabozantinib as a new first-line treatment option for patients with metastatic or advanced renal cell carcinoma not amenable to curative intent treatment and with no prior systemic treatment in the metastatic setting.

## Editor's Choice

The new treatment is supported by evidence from a phase III trial, CheckMate 9ER, showing improved progression-free survival, overall survival and objective response rate compared to sunitinib alone.<sup>1,2,3</sup> CheckMate 9ER also suggested additional quality of life improvement with the combination over sunitinib, assessed through patient-reported outcomes.<sup>3,4</sup> The combination regimen is associated with manageable toxicities consistent with the known safety profile of nivolumab and cabozantinib.<sup>3</sup>

### References:

1. Choueiri TK, Powles T, Burotto M, et al; CheckMate 9ER Investigators. Nivolumab plus cabozantinib versus sunitinib for advanced renal-cell carcinoma. *N Engl J Med*. 2021 Mar 4;384(9):829-841.
2. Powles T, Burotto M, Escudier B, et al. Nivolumab plus cabozantinib versus sunitinib for first-line treatment of advanced renal cell carcinoma: extended follow-up from the phase III randomized checkmate 9ER trial. *ESMO Open*. 2024 May;9(5):102994
3. Cabozantinib (Cabometyx) Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) Reimbursement Recommendation. *Canadian Journal of Health Technologies* Nov 2023; 3(11): 1-20.
4. Cella D, Motzer RJ, Suarez C, et al. Patient-reported outcomes with first-line nivolumab plus cabozantinib versus sunitinib in patients with advanced renal cell carcinoma treated in CheckMate 9ER: an open-label, randomised, phase 3 trial. *Lancet Oncol*. 2022 Feb;23(2):292-303.

## Expansion of Existing Programs

BC Cancer Provincial Systemic Therapy has approved the expansion of the following treatment programs effective 01 April 2025.

### Breast

**Treatment of Adjuvant Breast Cancer using Abemaciclib and Aromatase Inhibitor (UBRAJABEI) or Tamoxifen (UBRAJABET)** – The BC Cancer Breast Tumour Group is removing the Ki67 score requirement from these two protocols for hormone receptor positive, HER2-negative, node positive, early breast cancer at high risk of disease recurrence. This change is due to recent further analysis of the pivotal phase III MonarchE trial showing that the benefit of abemaciclib extended to the entire intent-to-treat population, regardless of the Ki67 score.<sup>1</sup>

### References:

1. Abemaciclib (Verzenio) CADTH Reimbursement Recommendation. *Canadian Journal of Health Technologies* October 2024; 4(10): 1-19.

## Febrile Neutropenia Assessment and Treatment Protocol Update

### Febrile Neutropenia Assessment and Antibiotic Treatment recommendations update

The BC Cancer febrile neutropenia assessment and antibiotic treatment protocol for adults with cancer (excluding leukemia/bone marrow transplant/chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR-T) therapy) has been updated. This guidance document is available on the BC Cancer website in the Supportive Care section of the Cancer Management Manual under [Febrile Neutropenia](#) and on [SHOP](#).

### Key updates:

- Update title and formatting
- Clarified microbiology tests
- Updated high risk factor criteria:
  - Added MASCC risk index
  - MRSA history considered high risk
  - Hematologic malignancy alone not considered high risk per criteria

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- Updated low risk treatment recommendations:
  - Administer piperacillin/tazobactam IV or ceftriaxone IV within 1 hour
  - For select low risk patients with adequate follow-up and home supports, may omit ciprofloxacin if patient does not have previous infection history with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and appropriate per local health authority practices
  - Observe patient for 4h before discharge
  - Remove inpatient management section

## Effective Communication Between BC Cancer Physicians and Community Oncology Network (CON)

[An information bulletin](#) and other updates are being circulated with the key best practices for communication between physicians at the BC Cancer and CON sites, including how to navigate specific scenarios. This bulletin is based on the current policy and procedure as well as feedback from health care practitioners.

Effective communication between BC Cancer physicians and Community Oncology Network (CON) site physicians is essential for ensuring seamless patient care and coordination. Clear, timely, and consistent communication helps facilitate treatment planning, reduce administrative burden, and improve patient safety and quality of care. By adopting these best practices and adjusting workflows as required, we can enhance collaboration, improve efficiency, and ultimately provide seamless and best possible patient care.

To remain up to date on treatment standards, please review the following related policy and procedure:

- [III-10 Systemic Therapy Delivery Process Policy](#)
- [III-110 Community Oncology Network Referral Procedure](#)

All documents are available in the [Cancer Drug Manual<sup>®</sup>](#) on the BC Cancer website.

## New Documents

The **Ropeginterferon alfa-2b Interim Monograph** has been developed. Health Canada has authorised the exceptional, temporary importation of ropeginterferon alfa-2b 500 mcg/1 mL (BESREMI<sup>®</sup>) from the US during the critical shortage of peginterferon alfa-2a 180 mcg/0.5 mL (PEGASYS<sup>®</sup>). Ropeginterferon is indicated for the treatment of chronic myeloid neoplasms and hypereosinophilic syndrome. BC Cancer Compassionate Access Program request approval is required prior to treatment. See BC Cancer interim protocol ULK0.

Highlights from this document include:

- ropeginterferon alfa-2b has a different active ingredient, dosing instructions, safety considerations and monitoring requirements than peginterferon alfa-2A
- like peginterferon alfa-2A, ropeginterferon is a prefilled syringe

## Revised Documents

### Abiraterone Monograph

*Cautions:* updated bulleted information; added new cautions

*Pregnancy:* deleted outdated FDA pregnancy category

*Interactions:* added new evidence-based interactions and updated paragraphs after the table

### Cabozantinib Monograph and Patient Handout

*Uses:* moved Thyroid cancer to *Primary Uses* and added asterisk for Health Canada approved indication

*Cautions:* updated *Carcinogenicity* and *Fertility* with current product information

*Interactions:* added management for evidence-based interactions and added a new paragraph after the table for CYP 3A4 interactions

*Dosage Guidelines:* updated notes to include dose adjustments for drug interactions, dose reductions, and recommended administration

*Patient Handout:* updated throughout to reflect current template wording

### Chemotherapy Preparation and Stability Chart

**Aldesleukin:** added US labelled brand for drug shortage (Iovance USA for SteriMax Canada)

**Datopotamab deruxtecan:** updated bag size to align with Cerner build for product

**Docetaxel:** added US labelled brand for drug shortage (Sandoz)

**Eribulin:** added new brand (Natco)

**Irinotecan:** added new brand (GMP)

**Methotrexate:** added US labelled brand for drug shortage (Fresenius Kabi); note that alternate product is a powder that requires reconstitution

**Mitomycin:** added new brand (Hikma)

**Pegaspargase:** added US labelled brand for drug shortage (Servier)

## Continuing Education

### Family Practice Oncology Network

The Family Practice Oncology Network (FPON) is pleased to announce a webinar session on **Localized Prostate Cancer Management and Surveillance** with Dr. Clement Ho, on Thursday 17 April 2025, 8 to 9 am, as part of the Complimentary Accredited Webinar Series.

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Identify risk factors for developing prostate cancer
- Cite management options for localized prostate cancer
- Review the role of PSMA PET scans in prostate cancer management
- Describe post treatment surveillance recommendations.

For more information and link to registration, visit:

<https://ubccpd.ca/learn/learning-activities/course?eventtemplate=925-fpon-webinar-localized-prostate-cancer-management-and-surveillance>

## Benefit Drug List

### New Programs

The following treatment programs have been added to the BC Cancer [Benefit Drug List](#) effective 01 April 2025:

Protocol Title	Protocol Code	Benefit Status
Treatment of Metastatic or Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma using <b>Nivolumab</b> and <b>Cabozantinib</b>	<b>GUAVNIVC</b>	Class I
Treatment of Metastatic or Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma using 4-weekly <b>Nivolumab</b> and <b>Cabozantinib</b>	<b>GUAVNIVC4</b>	Class I
<b>Ropeginterferon Alfa-2b</b> Therapy of Chronic Myeloid Neoplasms and Hypereosinophilic Syndrome (only reimbursable during peginterferon alfa-2a [PEGASYS] shortage)	<b>ULK0</b>	Restricted

## Highlights of New & Revised Protocols, PPPOs and Patient Handouts

**BC Cancer Protocol Summaries, Provincial Pre-Printed Orders (PPPOs) and Patient Handouts** are revised periodically. New, revised or deleted protocols, PPPOs and patient handouts for this month are listed below, with document revisions indicated in the respective columns. Protocol codes for treatment requiring BC Cancer Compassionate Access Program (CAP) approval are prefixed with the letter **U**.

### NEW Protocols, PPPOs and Patient Handouts (*new documents checked* ☒)

Protocol Code	Protocol Title	Protocol	PPPO	Handout
<b>GUAVNIVC</b>	Treatment of Metastatic or Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma using Nivolumab and Cabozantinib	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>GUAVNIVC4</b>	Treatment of Metastatic or Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma using 4-weekly Nivolumab and Cabozantinib	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### REVISED Protocols, PPPOs and Patient Handouts (*revisions in respective columns*)

Protocol Code	Protocol Title	Protocol	PPPO	Handout
<b>BR   Breast</b>				
<b>UBRAJABEI</b>	Treatment of Adjuvant Breast Cancer using Abemaciclib and Aromatase Inhibitor With or Without LHRH Agonist	<i>Eligibility and references updated, tests clarified</i>	--	--
<b>UBRAJABET</b>	Treatment of Adjuvant Breast Cancer using Abemaciclib and Tamoxifen With or Without LHRH Agonist	<i>Eligibility and references updated, tests clarified</i>	--	--
<b>CN   Neuro-oncology</b>				
<b>CNMODPCV</b>	Modified PCV Chemotherapy Of Brain Tumours Using Procarbazine, Lomustine (CCNU) and Vincristine	<i>Tests, treatment and dose modifications updated</i>	<i>Vincristine maximum dose and tests updated</i>	--
<b>GI   Gastrointestinal</b>				
<b>GIGAVCOXN</b>	First-Line Treatment of Locally Advanced or Metastatic Esophageal, Gastroesophageal, or Gastric Cancer using Oxaliplatin, Capecitabine and Nivolumab	<i>Eligibility updated</i>	--	--
<b>GIGAVCOXP</b>	First-Line Treatment of Locally Advanced or Metastatic Gastroesophageal Cancer using Oxaliplatin, Capecitabine and Pembrolizumab	<i>Eligibility updated</i>	--	--
<b>GIGAVFFOXN</b>	First-Line Treatment of Locally Advanced or Metastatic Esophageal, Gastroesophageal, or Gastric Cancer using Oxaliplatin, Fluorouracil, Leucovorin and Nivolumab	<i>Eligibility updated</i>	--	--

## REVISED Protocols, PPPOs and Patient Handouts (*revisions in respective columns*)

Protocol Code	Protocol Title	Protocol	PPPO	Handout
<b>GIGAVFFOXP</b>	First-Line Treatment of Locally Advanced or Metastatic Gastroesophageal Cancer using Oxaliplatin, Fluorouracil, Leucovorin and Pembrolizumab	<i>Eligibility updated</i>	--	--
<b>GU   Genitourinary</b>				
<b>GUAVIPNI</b>	Treatment of Metastatic or Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma Using Ipilimumab and Nivolumab	<i>Eligibility, exclusions, tests, premedications, treatment, dose modifications, precautions and references updated</i>	--	--
<b>GUAVNIV</b>	Treatment of Metastatic or Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma Using Nivolumab	<i>Tests, premedications, treatment, dose modifications and precautions updated</i>	--	--
<b>GUAVNIV4</b>	Treatment of Metastatic or Advanced Renal Cell Carcinoma Using 4-Weekly Nivolumab	<i>Tests, premedications, treatment, dose modifications and precautions updated</i>	--	--
<b>GUAVPEMAX</b>	Treatment of Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma using Pembrolizumab and Axitinib	<i>Title, eligibility, dose modifications and precautions updated</i>	<i>Pretreatment metrics and tests updated</i>	--
<b>GUAVPEML</b>	Treatment of Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma using Pembrolizumab and Lenvatinib	<i>Eligibility, tests and dose modifications updated</i>	<i>Pretreatment metrics and tests updated</i>	--
<b>GUAVPEML6</b>	Treatment of Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma using 6-weekly Pembrolizumab and Lenvatinib	<i>Eligibility, tests and dose modifications updated</i>	<i>Pretreatment metrics and tests updated</i>	--
<b>GUAXIT</b>	Therapy for Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Using axitinib	<i>Eligibility, exclusions and tests updated</i>	--	--
<b>GUCABO</b>	Therapy for Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma using Cabozantinib	<i>Title, eligibility, exclusions, tests, treatment, dose modifications and precautions updated</i>	<i>Header, dose modification and tests updated</i>	--
<b>LU   Lung</b>				
<b>LUAJPP</b>	Adjuvant Cisplatin and Pemetrexed Following Resection of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer	<i>Eligibility, tests, SCNAUSEA hyperlink added, precautions and references updated</i>	<i>Tests updated</i>	--

## REVISED Protocols, PPPOs and Patient Handouts (*revisions in respective columns*)

Protocol Code	Protocol Title	Protocol	PPPO	Handout
<b>LY   Lymphoma</b>				
<b>ULYOGLOFIT</b>	Treatment of Lymphoma using Glofitamab	<i>Additional IV line requirement clarified</i>	--	--

## Resources and Contact Information

Resource	Phone	Email / Toll Free / Fax
Systemic Therapy Update: <a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/systemic-therapy/systemic-therapy-update">www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/systemic-therapy/systemic-therapy-update</a>		
Systemic Therapy Update Editor	604-877-6000 x 672649	<a href="mailto:bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca">bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
Oncology Drug Information	604-877-6275	<a href="mailto:druginfo@bccancer.bc.ca">druginfo@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
Cancer Drug Manual Editor	250-519-5500 x 693742	<a href="mailto:nbadry@bccancer.bc.ca">nbadry@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
Pharmacy Oncology Certification	250-712-3900 x 686820	<a href="mailto:rxchemocert@bccancer.bc.ca">rxchemocert@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
CAP – Compassionate Access Program	604-877-6277	<a href="mailto:cap_bcca@bccancer.bc.ca">cap_bcca@bccancer.bc.ca</a> fax 604-708-2026
OSCAR – Online System for Cancer Drugs Adjudication and Reimbursement	888-355-0355	<a href="mailto:oscar@bccancer.bc.ca">oscar@bccancer.bc.ca</a> fax 604-708-2051
Library/Cancer Information	604-675-8003	toll free 888-675-8001 x 8003 <a href="mailto:requests@bccancer.bc.ca">requests@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
Library Document Delivery	604-675-8002	<a href="mailto:requests@bccancer.bc.ca">requests@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
Pharmacy Professional Practice	604-877-6000 x 672247	<a href="mailto:mclin@bccancer.bc.ca">mclin@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
Professional Practice, Nursing	604-877-6000 x 672623	<a href="mailto:BCCancerPPNAdmin@phsa.ca">BCCancerPPNAdmin@phsa.ca</a>
Provincial Systemic Therapy Network	604-877-6000 x 672247	<a href="mailto:ProvincialSystemicOffice@bccancer.bc.ca">ProvincialSystemicOffice@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
BC Cancer – Abbotsford	604-851-4710	toll free 877-547-3777
BC Cancer – Kelowna	250-712-3900	toll free 888-563-7773
BC Cancer – Prince George	250-645-7300	toll free 855-775-7300
BC Cancer – Surrey	604-930-2098	toll free 800-523-2885
BC Cancer – Vancouver	604-877-6000	toll free 800-663-3333
BC Cancer – Victoria	250-519-5500	toll free 800-670-3322
Community Oncology Network (CON) sites: To update your contact information, please contact: <a href="mailto:bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca">bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca</a>		

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