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FAX request form and IN TOUCH phone list are provided if additional information is needed.

## BENEFIT DRUG LIST

The following changes have been made to the Benefit Drug List by the Provincial Systemic Therapy Program effective 1 December 2002:

- **Amifostine** – changed to class II for radioprotection of head and neck radiation (HNRAMI)
- **Irinotecan** – class II added for palliative combination chemotherapy for metastatic colorectal cancer (GIFOLFIRI)

A Class II form must be completed and submitted to the Provincial Systemic Therapy Program before the drug will be dispensed at a regional cancer centre or reimbursed to a community hospital. The current Benefit Drug List, Class II forms and Undesignated Indication application forms are available on the BC Cancer Agency website ([www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca)) under Health Professionals Info, Chemotherapy Protocols, Frequently Used Forms.

## LIST OF NEW AND REVISED PROTOCOLS

**INDEX to BC Cancer Agency Protocol Summaries** revised monthly (includes tumour group, protocol code, indication, drugs, last revision date and version). Protocol codes for treatments requiring “Undesignated Indication” approval prior to use are prefixed with the letter **U**.

- **BRAVDOC7** revised (clarification of infusion rate): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using weekly docetaxel (Taxotere®)
- **BRAVMEG** new (formalised): Palliative therapy for advanced breast cancer using megestrol
- **CNTEMOZ** revised (dosing for chemo-naïve patients and maximum no. of treatment cycles): First line therapy for malignant brain tumours using temozolomide
- **GIFOLFIRI** new: Palliative combination chemotherapy for metastatic colorectal cancer using irinotecan, fluorouracil and folinic acid (leucovorin)
- **UGIFOLFOX** revised (leucovorin dose, fluorouracil dose): Palliative combination chemotherapy for metastatic colorectal cancer using oxaliplatin, 5-fluorouracil and folinic acid (leucovorin)
- **GIFUR3** new: Combined modality adjuvant therapy for high risk rectal carcinoma using fluorouracil, folinic acid (leucovorin) and radiation therapy
- **GUPMX** revised (exclusion criteria & mitoxantrone administration guideline) Palliative therapy for hormone-refractory prostate cancer using mitoxantrone and prednisone
- **HNRAMI** revised (protocol code revised, undesignated indication approval removed, rounding dose deleted): Radioprotection in head and neck radiation using amifostine
- **LYGDP** revised (treatment day for cisplatin clarified): Treatment of lymphoma with gemcitabine, dexamethasone and cisplatin

Protocols are available on the BC Cancer Agency website ([www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca)) under Health Professionals Info, Chemotherapy Protocols.

### CANCER MANAGEMENT MANUAL

**Breast Cancer** (Section 6.9) The hormonal therapy section for metastatic breast cancer in postmenopausal women has been revised to reflect the current options of hormonal agents.

**Skin-Melanoma** (Section 6.2) The management of patients with malignant melanoma and high risks of recurrence has been revised to include the adjuvant use of high dose interferon in patients with palpable lymph nodes at diagnosis or recurrence.

The Cancer Management Manual is available on the BC Cancer Agency website ([www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca)) under Health Professionals Info, Cancer Management Guidelines.

### PRE-PRINTED ORDER UPDATE

Pre-printed orders should always be checked with the most current BC Cancer Agency protocol summaries. The BC Cancer Agency Vancouver Centre has prepared chemotherapy pre-printed orders, which can be used as a guide for reference. An index to the orders can be obtained by Fax-back.

### CANCER DRUG MANUAL

**Doxorubicin** Maximum lifetime dose when used in combination with cyclophosphamide has been clarified in the Dosage Guidelines section.

**Melphalan** Storage instruction for oral tablets has been revised in the monograph and patient handout.

**Mitoxantrone** The extravasation hazard in the monograph has been reclassified to the “irritant” category (see Update August 2002 for details) and the preferred route of administration has been changed from direct IV to IV infusion in a 50 mL minibag.

**Oxaliplatin** The compatibility section in the monograph has been revised to clarify the information on administering oxaliplatin and folinic acid (leucovorin) via a Y-site.

The Cancer Drug Manual is available on the BC Cancer Agency website [www.bccancer.bc.ca/cdm/](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/cdm/). Patient information handouts for cancer drugs are

available on the BC Cancer Agency website ([www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca)) under Health Professionals Info, Drug Database, Drug Index (Patient).

### COMMUNITIES ONCOLOGY NETWORK

**Filgrastim (G-CSF) Reimbursement Guidelines** Filgrastim (G-CSF) is a colony-stimulating factor that specifically targets granulocytes. It can be used to decrease the duration of neutropenia associated with cancer chemotherapy. Filgrastim is not on the BC Cancer Agency benefit list because it is not used for active treatment. Reimbursement of Filgrastim is a unique Pharmacare-BCCA program and the budget for this program is separate from the chemotherapy budget. For reimbursement, the use of Filgrastim must fit specific criteria set by an expert committee of the Pharmacare. Eligible indications include prevention of neutropenia which interferes with delivery of a curative chemotherapy regimen; rescue of prolonged febrile neutropenia after chemotherapy; and specific circumstances before and after a bone marrow transplant. These criteria are outlined on the Filgrastim (G-CSF) Usage form. Filgrastim may also be prescribed as part of a pre-approved clinical trial. A Filgrastim (G-CSF) Usage form, to be completed by the prescribing physician, must be submitted for all Filgrastim prescriptions as indicated below. Outpatients are responsible for the cost of the drug but if they encounter financial difficulties, there may be resources available to help them.

**For inpatients** at CON hospitals,

- The completed Filgrastim (G-CSF) Usage form must be faxed to the BCCA Pharmacy CON office at (604) 877-6132.
- If the drug is being used for one of the eligible indications (e.g., Rescue of prolonged febrile neutropenia after chemotherapy), the Filgrastim prescription can be filled at the CON hospital. The cost of the drug is billed to the BCCA CON program as per usual billing procedures.
- For unusual clinical circumstances not eligible for coverage, the physician can submit a completed “Undesignated Indication Application” form to the Systemic Therapy Program. If approved, the drug request is processed as outlined above. If not approved, the Filgrastim is dispensed at the discretion of the CON hospital and the cost of the drug is absorbed by the host hospital.

**For outpatients** at CON hospitals,

- The completed Filgrastim (G-CSF) Usage form must be faxed to Pharmacare at 1-800-609-4884 (250-952-1065, if from Victoria).
- If the drug is being used for an eligible indication (e.g., To prevent neutropenia while the patient is on a potentially curative chemotherapy regimen), the patient can fill the prescription at a community pharmacy. The cost of the prescription will count towards the patient's annual Pharmacare deductible. Effective January 1, 2002, the annual deductible is \$1000 per family. Once the patient reaches this amount, Pharmacare automatically covers 70% of the cost of any further eligible prescription medications for the remainder of the calendar year. When the patient has paid \$2000 in costs recognized by Pharmacare, any further eligible costs are covered 100% by Pharmacare.
- Patients over 65 years or those on social assistance will be eligible for coverage as per Pharmacare guidelines.
- Patients should also be directed to check for third party coverage (Blue Cross or other private insurance plans). The patient and family counselling department at the BC Cancer Centres can be contacted to advise in this process.
- Amgen's Neupogen Care Program may be of assistance for those patients who are unable to pay for the drug or whose request has been denied by Pharmacare. The program's toll-free number is 1-888-706-4717 and anyone can contact the program on behalf of the patient. The program is committed to ensuring that patients who require Filgrastim have access to it. Reimbursement Specialists will explore all sources of reimbursement. If needed, they will determine through a means test if financing is required to assist with co-payments and deductibles. The extent of support will depend on the patient's financial status. It is important that this program be contacted prior to the patient filling his/her prescription for filgrastim, as they are unable to provide retroactive reimbursement.

For more information on the reimbursement of Filgrastim (G-CSF) or the Neupogen Care Program, please contact your regional CON Educator or

Francis Hu at the BCCA Pharmacy CON office (604-877-6098, local 2515).

Submitted by  
Dawn Annable  
Pharmacy CON Educator  
BCCA-Fraser Valley Centre

### PROVINCIAL SYSTEMIC THERAPY PROGRAM POLICIES

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BC Cancer Agency Systemic Therapy Policies are available on the BC Cancer Agency website ([www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca)) under Health Professionals Info, Chemotherapy Protocols, Policies and Procedures.

### LIBRARY/CANCER INFORMATION CENTRE

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**Unconventional Cancer Therapies Manual** is available on the BC Cancer Agency website [www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca) under Patient/Public Info, Unconventional Therapies. The manual consists of 46 short monographs on the more commonly used unconventional cancer therapies (e.g., Essiac, vitamins, teas, shark cartilage) and includes tips for the patient and family on how unconventional therapies can be evaluated. For each therapy the manual provides proponent/advocate claims, as well as evidence-based evaluation/critique quotations from the literature.

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

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**Part-time On-line MSc in Oncology and Palliative Care** The faculty of medicine of the University of Newcastle in the United Kingdom is offering new, multi-disciplinary work-based, on-line distance learning programs, for completion over 3-5 years. Students can work towards a postgraduate certificate, diploma or MSc degree, in either oncology or palliative care. The multi-professional programs are aimed at oncology professionals and palliative care practitioners including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, radiotherapists and others. They cover all aspects of delivering seamless care to patients and include treatment modalities, biological, psychosocial and ethical perspectives. The aim of the program is to develop practitioners who are prepared to offer clinical leadership, clinical excellence, and cultivate interdisciplinary collaboration in the delivery of evidence based oncology/palliative care.

The programs are accredited for the preparation for part one of the Fellowship of the Royal College of Radiologists examination or in medical oncology.

For more information, go to the website <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/cancereducationonline/index.htm> or contact Mário de Lemos at [mdelemos@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:mdelemos@bccancer.bc.ca).

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## Editorial Review Board

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<b>IN TOUCH</b>	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca">www.bccancer.bc.ca</a>	<a href="mailto:bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca">bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
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Drug Information	Ext 6275	<a href="mailto:dcole@bccancer.bc.ca">dcole@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
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Fraser Valley Centre (FVCC)	(604)-930-2098	Toll-Free 1-(888)-563-7773
Vancouver Centre (VCC)	(604)-877-6000	Toll-Free 1-(800)-523-2885
Vancouver Island Centre (VICC)	(250) 519-5500	Toll-Free 1-(800)-663-3333
		Toll-Free 1-(800)-670-3322

## REGIONAL CANCER CENTRE ACCESS

<b>BULLETIN UPDATES</b>		<b>LOCATION</b>	
Cancer Drug Manual		H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\cancer drug manual monographs	
Doxorubicin	Melphalan	Mitoxantrone	Oxaliplatin
Pre-Printed Orders		H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Orders\VCC	
Protocol Summaries		H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Protocol\tumour site"	
Index of Protocol Summaries		<u>Index_NT</u> or <u>Index_W6</u>	
BRAVDOC7	GIFOLFIRI		GUPMX
BRAVMEG	UGIFOLFOX		HNRAMI
CNTEMOZ	GIFUR3		LYGDP
Patient Education Handout		H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Pt Education	
Provincial Systemic Therapy Policies		H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\policies	
Reimbursement		H:\everyone\systemic\chemo\Reimburs	
Benefit Drug List (1 Dec 2002)		<u>BenefitList.doc</u>	
Class 2 Form (1 Dec 2002)		<u>Class2.doc</u>	
Filgrastim Usage Form (Oct 2002)		<u>GCSF_form.doc</u>	
Undesignated Indication Form (Nov 2002)		<u>Undesig.doc</u>	

For easy access, double-click your systemic chemo icon.

We appreciate your comments. Write us at [bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca)

**BC CANCER AGENCY SYSTEMIC THERAPY UPDATE FAX REQUEST FORM**

FAX (604) 877-0585

bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca

TO SUBSCRIBE: FAX OR EMAIL YOUR REQUEST OR CALL @ 877-6098 LOCAL 2247

**FOR URGENT REQUESTS PLEASE CALL (604) 877-6098 LOCAL 2247****OR TOLL-FREE IN BC 1-800-663-3333 LOCAL 2247****PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MAKE COPIES FOR YOUR COLLEAGUES***I WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE THIS INFORMATION VIA:* E-mail (Word 6.0)

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 Fax

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Attn:

**UPDATES** Please  Fax-Back information below:

<input type="checkbox"/> All items		
Cancer Drug Manual Monographs (also available on our website <a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca">www.bccancer.bc.ca</a> )		
<input type="checkbox"/> Doxorubicin	<input type="checkbox"/> Melphalan	<input type="checkbox"/> Mitoxantrone
<input type="checkbox"/> Oxaliplatin		
Patient Education Handout (also available on our website <a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca">www.bccancer.bc.ca</a> )		
Pre-printed Orders:		
Protocol Summaries: (also available on our website <a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca">www.bccancer.bc.ca</a> )		
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAVDOC7	<input type="checkbox"/> GIFOLFIRI	<input type="checkbox"/> GUPMX
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<input type="checkbox"/> CNTEMOZ	<input type="checkbox"/> GIFUR3	<input type="checkbox"/> LYGDP
<input type="checkbox"/> Index: Protocol Summaries (current month)		
Provincial Systemic Therapy Program Policies		
Reimbursement (also available on our website <a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca">www.bccancer.bc.ca</a> )		
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefit Drug List (01 Dec 2002)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 2 Form (01 Dec 2002)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Filgrastim Usage Form (October 2002)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Undesignated Indication Form (Nov 2002)		
Systemic Therapy Update Index (also available on our website <a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca">www.bccancer.bc.ca</a> )		
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan-Dec 2000		
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan-Dec 2001		
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan-Jun 2002		