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

### NEW LOOK TO THE BCCA WEBSITE

A more user-friendly version of the BC Cancer Agency website will be posted sometime in May. The colours will be more welcoming, and navigation and search options will be greatly improved. Have a look at our new website when it becomes available and let us know, via the "Contact Us" button, of any comments you may have.

### BENEFIT DRUG LIST

The current Benefit Drug List and Class II forms are available on the website [www.bccancer.bc.ca](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca).

### PROTOCOL UPDATE

**Protocols by Drugs Index** A cross-referenced index lists the BC Cancer Agency benefit drugs with their corresponding protocols. This index can be obtained via H-drive at regional cancer centres or Fax-back as listed at the end of the Update.

Protocol codes for treatments requiring "Undesignated Indication" approval prior to use are prefixed with the letter **U**.

- **INDEX to BC Cancer Agency Protocol Summaries** revised monthly (includes tumour group, protocol code, indication, drugs, last revision date and version)
- **BRAVTAX** revised (hepatic dose modifications clarified): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using paclitaxel
- **BRAVTRAP** revised (hepatic dose modifications clarified): Palliative therapy for metastatic breast cancer using trastuzumab (Herceptin®) and paclitaxel (Taxol®) as first-line treatment for recurrent breast cancer refractory to anthracycline chemotherapy
- **GUBCV** revised (vinblastine administration route clarified): Therapy for transitional cell cancers using carboplatin-vinblastine
- **GUYEIP** revised (vinblastine administration route clarified): Nonseminoma consolidation/salvage protocol for germ cell cancer
- **UGUGEMCIS** revised (renal clearance clarified in eligibility, cisplatin dose clarified in dose modifications): Palliative therapy for urothelial carcinoma using cisplatin and gemcitabine
- **KSVB** revised (vinblastine administration route revised): Palliative therapy for Kaposi's sarcoma using vinblastine alternating with vincristine
- **LUCMT-1** revised (vinblastine administration route revised): Combined chemotherapy and radiation treatment for stage 3 non-small cell lung cancer
- **LYABVD** revised (vinblastine administration route revised, etoposide dosing as alternative to doxorubicin clarified, cyclophosphamide as alternative for dacarbazine added, dose of

cyclophosphamide as alternative to doxorubicin for hepatotoxicity revised): Treatment of Hodgkin's disease with doxorubicin, bleomycin, vinblastine, and dacarbazine

- **SMTV** revised (vinblastine administration route revised): Second line treatment of metastatic malignant melanoma using tamoxifen and vinblastine

Protocols are available on the BC Cancer Agency website [www.bccancer.bc.ca/ccp/](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/ccp/).

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### CANCER MANAGEMENT MANUAL

The Cancer Management Manual is available on BC Cancer Agency website [www.bccancer.bc.ca/cmm/](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/cmm/).

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### 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.

- **LYCHOP-R** revised (bookings): Treatment of lymphoma with doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide, vincristine, prednisone and rituximab
- **LYMPHOMA (NP)** revised (consent for bone marrow biopsy): Lymphoma new patient consultation orders
- **MYHDC** new: Single dose cyclophosphamide priming therapy for multiple myeloma prior to autologous stem cell transplant
- **SMTV** new: Second line treatment of metastatic malignant melanoma using tamoxifen and vinblastine
- **SUFENTANIL** new: Sufentanil for incident pain by sublingual route

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### DRUG UPDATE

**Vinblastine: Route of Administration**  
Vinblastine is classified as a vesicant. Vinblastine is sometimes mixed in a minibag and infused by intermittent intravenous (IV) infusion due to vein irritation caused by the IV push route. However, a recent literature evaluation on the administration route of vinblastine found no evidence to support

that intermittent IV infusion was superior to IV push in terms of extravasation hazard or pain management. Hence, the preferred route of administration for vinblastine is changed to IV push, effective 1 May 2002. This change will be reflected in the Systemic Therapy protocol summaries (see Protocol Update) and the Systemic Therapy Policy (III-20) on the Prevention and Management of Extravasation of Chemotherapy (see Provincial Systemic Therapy Program Policies).

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### CANCER DRUG MANUAL

The Cancer Drug Manual is available on the BC Cancer Agency website [www.bccancer.bc.ca/cdm/](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/cdm/).

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### COMMUNITIES ONCOLOGY NETWORK

**Education Resource Nurses** Four Education Resource Nurses (3 FTE's) have recently been appointed at the BC Cancer Agency. These skilled educators and experienced oncology nurses will be responsible for providing educational support and consultation to nurses involved in cancer care in a variety of practice settings throughout the province, including regional cancer centres and community settings.

**Heather Watson** has worked in cancer care for almost 20 years, including inpatient, ambulatory care, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy settings. Most recently Heather has been a member of the Pain and Symptom Management/Palliative Care team at the Vancouver Island Centre. One aspect of nursing that is critical to her is coordinating and facilitating patient involvement and confidence in their treatment and follow-up care. Through her involvement in the BC Oncology Nurses Group (BCONG) and the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO), Heather has formed links with community nurses, and looks forward to working with them to identify their needs for oncology nursing education and develop and deliver programs for nurses to ensure they are confident in providing quality care for patients with cancer.

**Judy Oliver** has most recently worked as the Assessment Module Leader in the Radiation Therapy Program at the Vancouver Centre. Judy has worked for many years as a nurse in Radiation Therapy in Ambulatory Care, and as a Clinical Instructor in both the Vancouver Centre and with

the Outreach Program (now Communities Oncology Network [CON]). She looks forward to helping to create linkages between nurses inside and outside of cancer centres and the community, and is specifically interested in developing accessible, innovative and useful learning materials that are valuable to all nurses who care for cancer patients.

**Brenda Ross's** career in oncology at the BC Cancer Agency now spans four decades, from 1979 until the present. Brenda is proud to have worked in a variety of positions and settings in both inpatient and ambulatory care. She has worked as a staff nurse, nurse examiner, assistant head nurse, clinical instructor, across the cancer care spectrum in prevention, treatment, and supportive care. Brenda most recently was Assessment Module Leader in Radiation Therapy at the Fraser Valley Centre. Brenda will be supporting the oncologic educational needs of nurses in the centre and province. Brenda is looking forward to continued growth in her new position as Education Resource Nurse as part of the nursing professional practice network at the BC Cancer Agency.

**Sue Bartnik** has been with the BCCA for 5 years and has worked in a variety of settings including inpatient unit, ambulatory care clinic, radiation therapy and education support for BCCA-Vancouver Centre nurses. Previously she worked in Ontario, as a homecare nurse and at the Hamilton Regional Cancer Centre. She has a strong interest in holistic nursing and areas of healing for patients, families and healthcare providers. Her focus for the next six months will be on developing student placement opportunities, forming connections with CON Nurses in the Fraser Valley Region and supporting their practice and developing a comprehensive Nursing Orientation program.

Heather, Judy, Brenda, and Sue will staff the **Education Resource Nurse Telephone Support Line**, a service designed to provide educational support and nursing practice consultation to nurses involved in cancer care. This support can be accessed by calling **1-800-663-3333, local 2638** or **Email [nursinged@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:nursinged@bccancer.bc.ca)**

#### **Interim Contacts for CON related issues**

Due to the recent retirement of Dr. Jack Chritchley as the CON Vice President, the interim contacts for

CON related provincial issues are: Jaya Venkatesh, Business Affairs Coordinator, Provincial Systemic Therapy Program at 1-800-663-3333 local 2732 or Dorothy Gifford, CON Secretary 1-800-663-3333 local 2744.

#### **LIBRARY/CANCER INFORMATION CENTRE**

**Unconventional Cancer Therapies Manual** is available on the BC Cancer Agency website [www.bccancer.bc.ca/uct/](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/uct/). 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**

**The American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting** will be held in Orlando, Florida, on May 18-21, 2002. Information can be found on the ASCO website at [www.ASCO.org](http://www.ASCO.org).

**International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners (ISOPP) VIII Symposium** will be held on 7-11 May, 2002, at the Fairmont Hotel (Vancouver) in Vancouver, BC. The conference has a wide ranging program for the oncology pharmacist, from setting up a chemotherapy service to pharmacogenomics, drug and disease updates, molecular biology, advances in safe handling of antineoplastics, and symptom management issues.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. David Suzuki, internationally renowned television personality, geneticist, and environmental activist. Other speakers include Howard Pai, Dianne Kapy, Kimberly Kuik, Robin O'Brien, Lynne Nakashima, and Suzanne Taylor from the BC Cancer Agency, and Dana Cole from the Prince George Regional Hospital.

For more information, visit the conference website at [www.isopp.org](http://www.isopp.org), or contact Jeff Barnett at [jbarnett@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:jbarnett@bccancer.bc.ca) or (250) 519-5519.



## BC CANCER AGENCY SYSTEMIC THERAPY UPDATE FAX REQUEST FORM

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### UPDATES Please Fax-Back information below:

Add breast protocols

<input type="checkbox"/> All items
<b>Pre-Printed Orders:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Index: Pre-Printed Orders
<b>Protocol Summaries: (also available on our website <a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca">www.bccancer.bc.ca</a>)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAVTAX
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAVTRAP
<input type="checkbox"/> GUBCV
<input type="checkbox"/> UGUGEMCIS
<input type="checkbox"/> GUVEIP
<input type="checkbox"/> Index: Protocol Summaries (current month)
<b>Reimbursement (also available on our website <a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca">www.bccancer.bc.ca</a>)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefit Drug List (01 March 2002)
<input type="checkbox"/> Class 2 Form (01 February 2001)
<input type="checkbox"/> Filgrastim Usage Form (01 June 2001)
<input type="checkbox"/> Undesignated Indication Form (November 2001)
<b>Systemic Therapy Update Index (also available on our website <a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca">www.bccancer.bc.ca</a>)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan-Dec 2000
<input type="checkbox"/> Jan-Dec 2001