

For Health Professionals Who Care for Cancer Patients

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Editor's Choice

New Programs

Effective 01 November 2023, the BC Cancer Provincial Systemic Therapy Program has approved the following new treatment programs. The full details of these programs can be found on the BC Cancer website in the [Chemotherapy Protocols](#) section.

Gynecological

Use of Paclitaxel NAB (ABRAXANE) for Gynecological Malignancies (GOCXCPNBP, GOCXCPNP) — The BC Cancer Gynecology Tumour Group is continuing the implementation of paclitaxel NAB (ABRAXANE) for use in patients who are not able to receive standard paclitaxel due to moderate to severe hypersensitivity reactions (HSRs) (infusion-related reactions). The latest addition is the use of paclitaxel NAB with carboplatin in combination with bevacizumab and pembrolizumab (GOCXCPNBP) or in combination with Pembrolizumab alone (GOCXCPNP). More background information can be found in the [September](#) 2020 issue of the Systemic Therapy Update.

Practice Standards and Policies

Updated: Influenza Vaccine Recommendations

The updated BC Cancer Influenza Vaccine Recommendations for Adults with Cancer are available on the BC Cancer website in the [Supportive Care](#) section of the Cancer Management Guidelines and on the [Immunotherapy](#) and [Supportive Care](#) pages in the Chemotherapy Protocols section.

As in the previous flu season, patients should be offered an age-appropriate inactivated influenza vaccine.

Provincial Systemic Therapy Policies

[III-110 Community Oncology Network Referral Procedure:](#)

- Updated to include a more detailed description of BC Cancer ROI/HIM staff involvement to ensure the CONRef referral is transferred to the appropriate electronic chart system.
- Clarification on definitions and delegate status

Cancer Drug Manual[®]

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

New Documents

Note that the following drug is not a BC Cancer Benefit Drug and requires application to the BC Cancer Compassionate Access Program (CAP). The corresponding Interim Monograph and Chemotherapy Preparation and Stability Chart entry is made available for reference only.

The **Epcoritamab Interim Monograph** has been developed. Epcoritamab is a T-cell engaging bispecific antibody that binds to CD3 receptors expressed on T cells and the B-cell antigen CD20 expressed on malignant cells. By co-engaging CD3 and CD20, epcoritamab induces the activation of T cells, causing the release of proinflammatory cytokines and the subsequent lysis of CD20 expressing tumour cells. Epcoritamab is used in the treatment of B-cell lymphoma and is given by subcutaneous injection. Dosing follows a step-up dosing regimen for the first cycle with increasing doses given on days 1, 8, 15, and 22 of a 4 weekly regimen. The usual dose for cycle 2 onwards is a fixed dose of 48 mg. Depending on the cycle, epcoritamab may be given weekly (on days 1, 8, 15, and 22), every 2 weeks (on days 1 and 8), or every 4 weeks (on day 1) in a 4 weekly cycle.

Highlights from this document include:

- cytokine release syndrome (CRS) and immune effector cell-associated neurotoxicity syndrome (ICANS) have been reported with epcoritamab
- T-cell activation and cytokine release induced by epcoritamab may compromise pregnancy; infants exposed to epcoritamab *in utero* may develop B-cell lymphocytopenia

Cancer Drug Manual[©]

- antimicrobial/antiviral prophylaxis is recommended for *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia and herpes virus prior to starting epcoritamab
- epcoritamab is supplied in two different vial concentrations - proper preparation of each dose requires selection of appropriate vial size
- ChemoLock[®] closed system transfer devices have not been tested for compatibility and therefore are not recommended when preparing or administering epcoritamab. See Nursing Practice Reference [C252](#) for more details.

Epcoritamab has been added to the **Chemotherapy Preparation and Stability Chart** and has been evaluated for the **BC Health Authorities Provincial Hazardous Drug List**.

Revised Documents

Durvalumab Chemotherapy Preparation and Stability Chart

Special Precautions: added information regarding the use of closed system transfer devices

Continuing Education

Family Practice Oncology Network

The Family Practice Oncology Network (FPON) is pleased to announce a complimentary accredited webinar session on '**Female Sexual Health & Cancer Survivorship**' on **Thursday, 16 November, from 8 am to 9 am**, as part of the ongoing Complimentary Accredited Webinar Series. This session will cover:

- Common sexual health concerns following breast cancer;
- An approach to managing dyspareunia related to menopause in patients with breast cancer; and
- How to talk about decreased sexual desire in the context of dyspareunia and cancer survivorship

This session is offered at **no charge** and is accredited at up to 1.0 Mainpro+ credits.

For more information and links to registration, visit the FPON Continuing Medical Education site at fpon.ca or click [here](#).

Celebrating the 41st issue of the *Journal of Family Practice Oncology*

This can now be accessed [here](#). Highlights of this issue include:

- *Management of Incidentally Found Lung Nodules*
- *HPV and Related Cancers*
- *CPAC Models of Care Toolkit*
- *Primer on Systemic Therapies for Advanced Lung Cancers in 2023*
- *Monoclonal Proteins: When should we look for them and what should we do when we find them*
- *How family doctors can help prevent Ovarian Cancer*

Benefit Drug List

New Programs

Effective 01 November 2023, the following new treatment programs have been added to the BC Cancer [Benefit Drug List](#):

Protocol Title	Protocol Code	Benefit Status
Alternative Treatment of Squamous, Adenocarcinoma, or Adenosquamous Cancer of the Cervix with Bevacizumab, CARBOplatin, PACLitaxel NAB (ABRAXANE) and Pembrolizumab	GOCXCPNBP	Class I
Alternative Treatment of Squamous, Adenocarcinoma, or Adenosquamous Cancer of the Cervix with CARBOplatin, PACLitaxel NAB (ABRAXANE), and Pembrolizumab	GOCXCPNP	Class I

New and Revised Protocols, Pre-Printed Orders 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 approval are prefixed with the letter **U**.

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

Code	Protocol Title	Protocol	PPPO	Handout
GOCXCPNBP	Alternative Treatment of Squamous, Adenocarcinoma, or Adenosquamous Cancer of the Cervix with Bevacizumab, CARBOplatin, PACLitaxel NAB (ABRAXANE) and Pembrolizumab	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	--
GOCXCPNP	Alternative Treatment of Squamous, Adenocarcinoma, or Adenosquamous Cancer of the Cervix with CARBOplatin, PACLitaxel NAB (ABRAXANE), and Pembrolizumab	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	--

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

Code	Protocol Title	Protocol	PPPO	Handout
BR Breast				
UBRAJOLA	Treatment of BRCA-Mutated High-Risk Early Breast Cancer using Olaparib	<i>Link to CPS + EG score calculator clarified</i>	--	--
BRAVENH	Palliative Therapy for Metastatic Breast Cancer using Trastuzumab Deruxtecan (ENHERTU)	--	<i>Reminder to prime with D5W added</i>	--
GI Gastrointestinal				
GIPAJIROX	Adjuvant Chemotherapy for Resected Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma Using Irinotecan, Oxaliplatin, Fluorouracil and Leucovorin	<i>Dose modification updated</i>	--	--
GIPE	Palliative Therapy of Neuroendocrine Tumours using CISplatin and Etoposide	<i>Cisplatin bag size threshold deleted</i>	--	--
GO Gynecological				
GOCXBP	Maintenance Therapy of Squamous, Adenocarcinoma, or Adenosquamous Cancer of the Cervix with Pembrolizumab with or without Bevacizumab	<i>Eligibility, tests and treatment duration notes updated</i>	--	--
GOCXBP6	Maintenance Therapy of Squamous, Adenocarcinoma, or Adenosquamous Cancer of the Cervix with 6-Weekly Pembrolizumab with or without Bevacizumab	<i>Eligibility, tests and treatment duration notes updated</i>	--	--
GOSCPPE	Treatment of Small Cell Gynecologic Cancer with CISplatin and Etoposide	<i>Cisplatin bag size threshold deleted</i>	--	--
GOSCPERT	Treatment of Small Cell Gynecologic Cancer using CISplatin and Etoposide with Radiation Therapy	<i>Cisplatin bag size threshold deleted</i>	--	--
GOTDMR	Therapy for Moderate Risk Gestational Trophoblastic Cancer using DACTINomycin and Methotrexate	<i>Methotrexate order schedule clarified</i>	--	--
GU Genitourinary				
GUAJPG	Adjuvant Therapy for Urothelial Carcinoma using CISplatin and Gemcitabine	<i>Contact physicians, eligibility, exclusions, precautions and references updated</i>	--	--

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

Code	Protocol Title	Protocol	PPPO	Handout
GUAVPG	Palliative Therapy for Urothelial Carcinoma using CISplatin and Gemcitabine	<i>Physician contact, exclusions, and precautions updated. Note regarding 28-day treatment cycle removed</i>	--	--
GUBDDMVAC	Neoadjuvant Treatment of Urothelial Cancer using Dose-Dense Methotrexate, vinBLASTine, DOXOrubicin and CISplatin	<i>Eligibility and references updated</i>	--	--
HN Head and Neck				
HNLAALPRT	Locally Advanced (Alternate) Head and Neck Cancer Using CISplatin During Radiation Therapy	<i>Cisplatin bag size threshold deleted</i>	--	--
HNAVFUP	for Advanced Nasopharyngeal Cancer of the Head and Neck using Platinum and Fluorouracil	<i>Cisplatin bag size threshold deleted</i>	--	--
HNSAVNP	Palliative Treatment of Advanced Salivary Gland Cancers with CISplatin and Vinorelbine	<i>Cisplatin bag size threshold deleted</i>	--	--
LU Lung				
LUAVDOC	Second or Later-Line Treatment of Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) with DOCEtaxel	--	<i>Reminder for CAP deleted</i>	--
LY Lymphoma				
LYGDP	Treatment of Lymphoma with Gemcitabine, Dexamethasone and Platinum	<i>Dose modification updated</i>	--	--
LYGDPR	Treatment of Lymphoma with Gemcitabine, Dexamethasone and Platinum with riTUXimab	<i>Dose modification updated</i>	--	<i>Minor typo corrected</i>
SM Skin & Melanoma				
SMAVALIPNI	Treatment of Unresectable or Metastatic Melanoma using Alternative Dosing Regimen of Ipilimumab and Nivolumab	<i>Eligibility updated</i>	--	--
SMAVIPNI	Treatment of Unresectable or Metastatic Melanoma Using Ipilimumab and Nivolumab	<i>Eligibility updated</i>	--	--
SMAVNIV	Treatment of Unresectable or Metastatic Melanoma Using Nivolumab	<i>Eligibility updated</i>	--	--
SMAVNIV4	Treatment of Unresectable or Metastatic Melanoma Using 4-Weekly Nivolumab	<i>Eligibility updated</i>	--	--
SMAVPEM	Treatment of Unresectable or Metastatic Melanoma Using Pembrolizumab	<i>Eligibility updated</i>	--	--
SMAVPEM6	Treatment of Unresectable or Metastatic Melanoma Using 6-Weekly Pembrolizumab	<i>Eligibility updated</i>	--	--

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

Code	Protocol Title	Protocol	PPPO	Handout
SMMCCPE	Treatment of recurrent or metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC) with CISplatin and Etoposide	<i>Cisplatin bag size threshold deleted</i>	--	--

Corrigendum

October Issue

Editor’s Choice Announcement for Pembrolizumab with Lenvatinib for Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma should read the overall response rate as “71% vs. 36.1%”, not “30.3% vs. 15.1%”.

Resources and Contact Information

Resource	Phone	Email / Toll Free / Fax
Systemic Therapy Update: www.bccancer.bc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/systemic-therapy/systemic-therapy-update		
Systemic Therapy Update Editor	604-877-6000 x 672649	bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca
Oncology Drug Information	604-877-6275	druginfo@bccancer.bc.ca
Cancer Drug Manual Editor	250-519-5500 x 693742	nbadry@bccancer.bc.ca
Pharmacy Oncology Certification	250-712-3900 x 686820	rxchemocert@bccancer.bc.ca
Nurse Educators	Not available	nursinged@bccancer.bc.ca
CAP – Compassionate Access Program	604-877-6277	cap_bcca@bccancer.bc.ca fax 604-708-2026
OSCAR – Online System for Cancer Drugs Adjudication and Reimbursement	888-355-0355	oscar@bccancer.bc.ca fax 604-708-2051
Library/Cancer Information	604-675-8003	toll free 888-675-8001 x 8003 requests@bccancer.bc.ca
Library Document Delivery	604-675-8002	requests@bccancer.bc.ca
Pharmacy Professional Practice	604-877-6000 x 672247	mclin@bccancer.bc.ca
Professional Practice, Nursing	Not available	BCCancerPPNAdmin@ehcnet.phsa.ca
Provincial Systemic Therapy Program	604-877-6000 x 672247	mclin@bccancer.bc.ca
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: bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca		

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