

# Systemic Therapy Update



BC Cancer Agency

CARE + RESEARCH

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For health professionals who care for cancer patients  
Available online at [www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/stupdate](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/stupdate)

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## EDITOR'S CHOICE:

### CANADIAN PATIENT SAFETY WEEK – 26 NOVEMBER 2009

Between 9,000 and 24,000 Canadians die each year from preventable harm in healthcare. There are more deaths each year due to adverse events or preventable harm in Canadian hospitals than deaths from breast cancer, motor vehicle accidents and HIV *combined*.

The Canadian Patient Safety Institute has launched Canadian Patient Safety Week to strive to ensure that every Canadian in need of healthcare can be confident that the care they receive is the safest in the world. Its goals are to increase awareness of patient safety issues in Canada and to share with healthcare professionals, patients, and their families information about best practices in the area of patient safety.

The theme of this year's Canadian Patient Safety Week is **Ask. Listen. Talk. Good healthcare starts with good communication.** All healthcare professionals are encouraged to celebrate the work they do in asking their patients questions, listening to the answers and discussing any concerns. This week should remind us of the need to continue improving our efforts to ask, listen, and communicate effectively with our patients.

Patients are encouraged to speak out if something doesn't seem right, and healthcare providers are encouraged to listen. For example: Taking the wrong medication or the wrong dose can be very harmful. Patients are encouraged to:

**Ask:**

- What is the name of this medication?
- Why am I taking it?
- What are its benefits?
- Should I expect any side effects?
- How much should I take and when?
- Can I take my other medications while I'm taking this?

**Listen:**

- to what the health care professional tells you.; take notes or involve a friend or family member to help you remember.

**Talk:**

- to the health care professional about all of the medications you are taking and discuss any concerns.

The BCCA has available patient handouts for all of the cancer drugs provided to patients. These can be accessed from our website at [www.bccancer.bc.ca/cdm](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/cdm). The BCCA also has a patient guide to medication safety available at [www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/DrugDatabase/DrugIndexPt/Patient+Guide+to+Medication+Safety](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/DrugDatabase/DrugIndexPt/Patient+Guide+to+Medication+Safety).

For more information about Canadian Patient Safety Week visit [www.asklistentalk.ca](http://www.asklistentalk.ca).

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## H1N1 VACCINATION FOR PATIENTS WITH CANCER

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Everyone is at risk of catching the H1N1 flu virus but individuals with chronic medical conditions may be at increased risk of catching H1N1 and of developing serious complications from the flu, such as pneumonia or respiratory distress. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that people with cancer or weakened immune systems should receive the pandemic H1N1 (pH1N1) influenza vaccine.

Note that all patients with lymphoid cancers (e.g., myeloma, lymphoma, lymphocytic leukemia) now or in the past should also receive immunization against BOTH pH1N1 influenza virus AND seasonal influenza virus, regardless of whether they are receiving treatment for the lymphoid cancer.

More information is available from:

- Public Health Agency of Canada ([www.fightflu.ca](http://www.fightflu.ca))
- Government of BC ([www.gov.bc.ca/h1n1](http://www.gov.bc.ca/h1n1))
- HealthLinkBC ([www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile108b.stm](http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthfiles/hfile108b.stm))
- BC Ministry of Health ([www.hls.gov.bc.ca/pho/physh1n1.html](http://www.hls.gov.bc.ca/pho/physh1n1.html) )

## BENEFIT DRUG LIST

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The following program has been changed from case-by-case review to Class II benefit effective 1 November 2009:

- **Gemcitabine** with Cisplatin as first-line palliative chemotherapy for advanced gallbladder cancer and cholangiocarcinoma (GIAVPG). Note that use of this regimen for pancreatic carcinoma will require BCCA Compassionate Access Program (CAP) approval.

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.

## CANCER DRUG MANUAL

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**Fludrocortisone Patient Handout** has been completely revised and updated. Expert review was provided by Drs. Joseph Connors (Endocrine Tumour Group) and Jeff Davis (Pediatric Oncologist). As with other supportive care medications, there is no corresponding CDM monograph. Fludrocortisone is prescribed as an adjunct therapy to mitotane in the BCCA protocol ENMITO. Care should be taken to ensure that patients are aware not to stop taking fludrocortisone abruptly.

**Sunitinib** and **Sorafenib Patient Handouts** have been updated to specify that the side effect of hypertension may occur rapidly after starting treatment. Patients should check their blood pressure frequently between visits (see individual treatment protocols for more specific details).

**Temozolomide Patient Handout** has been updated at the request of the neuro-oncology tumour group. It is now recommended that patients to take this drug at bedtime unless otherwise directed (e.g., protocol-specific instructions). Also, the section on stopping treatment and seeking emergency help due to symptoms has been modified. This is due to the similarity between some symptoms of disease progression and side effects of the medication. The section is now clarified on when treatment should be stopped or continued, while seeking help.

**Interferon** and **Mitomycin Monographs** have been updated to include eye drop preparation instructions.

## DRUG UPDATE:

### DISPENSING LENALIDOMIDE FOR BC PATIENTS TREATED BY ALBERTA PHYSICIANS

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Special ordering procedures for lenalidomide are required for British Columbia patients under the care of physicians in Alberta. The Alberta physicians need to:

- 1) register the patient with the BC Cancer Agency by faxing a completed Drug Registration Form with supporting documentation to the Drug Registration Office (tel. 604-877-6000 local 4610, fax. 604-707-5932; the form is available from the Drug Registration Office),
- 2) submit a request to the BC Cancer Agency Compassionate Access Program (CAP) by faxing a completed Undesignated Indications Request Form to the CAP office (fax. 604-708-2026; form available online at [www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Forms](http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Forms)), and
- 3) fax the lenalidomide prescription, along with lab reports or any other pertinent information, to the closest BC Cancer Agency regional cancer centre pharmacy for dispensing. The centre's pharmacy will arrange to deliver the drug supply to the patient.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF CHANGES IN PROTOCOLS, PRE-PRINTED ORDERS AND PATIENT HANDOUTS

The **Gastrointestinal Tumour Group** has revised all **bevacizumab-based protocols** and pre-printed physician orders so blood pressure measurement is only needed before and after bevacizumab infusion; measurement during infusion is no longer required. In addition, the infusion time for bevacizumab has been corrected to 15 minutes for UGICOXB and UGICIRB so that it is consistent with the higher bevacizumab dose used in these protocols (i.e., 7.5 mg/kg) and the new recommended infusion rate (0.5 mg/Kg/min). Infusion time of bevacizumab in UGIFFIRB and UGIFFOXB, which use bevacizumab 5 mg/kg, will remain at 10 minutes.

## LIST OF NEW AND REVISED PROTOCOLS, PRE-PRINTED ORDERS AND PATIENT HANDOUTS

**BC Cancer Agency Protocol Summaries, Provincial Pre-Printed Orders (PPPOs) and Patient Handouts** are revised periodically. New and revised protocols, PPPOs and patient handouts for this month are listed below. Protocol codes for treatments requiring “Compassionate Access Program” (previously Undesignated Indication Request) approval are prefixed with the letter **U**.

### NEW PROTOCOLS, PPPOs AND PATIENT HANDOUTS (AFFECTED DOCUMENTS ARE CHECKED):

CODE	Protocol	PPPO	Patient Handout	Protocol Title
GIAVPG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	First-Line Palliative Chemotherapy for Advanced Gallbladder Cancer and Cholangiocarcinoma using Gemcitabine and Cisplatin
UGIAVCETIR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Third Line Treatment of Metastatic Cancer of the Colon or Rectum, using Cetuximab and Irinotecan
UGIAVPANI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Palliative Third Line Treatment of Metastatic Cancer of the Colon or Rectum using Panitumumab
UGIAVTZCAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Palliative therapy of metastatic neuroendocrine cancer of the pancreas, using Temozolomide and Capecitabine
GIFUC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Palliative Chemotherapy for Upper Gastrointestinal Tract Cancer (Stomach, Esophagus, Gall Bladder, Pancreas, Bile Ducts) and Metastatic Anal Cancer using Infusional Fluorouracil and Cisplatin
GIOCTLAR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Symptomatic Management of Functional Carcinoid and Neuroendocrine Tumors of the GI Tract Using Octreotide
UGOOVPLDC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Second Line Treatment Using Pegylated Liposomal Doxorubicin (PLD) and Carboplatin for Epithelial Ovarian Cancer Relapsing after Primary Treatment
LUAVNP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Treatment of Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer with Cisplatin and Vinorelbine

### REVISED PROTOCOLS, PPPOs AND PATIENT HANDOUTS (AFFECTED DOCUMENTS ARE CHECKED):

CODE	Protocol	PPPO	Patient Handout	Changes	Protocol Title
BRAJACTT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Timing of bloodwork revised</i>	Adjuvant Therapy for Breast Cancer using Doxorubicin and Cyclophosphamide followed by Paclitaxel and Trastuzumab

CODE	Protocol	PPPO	Patient Handout	Changes	Protocol Title
BRLAACDT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Treatment plan clarified</i>	Treatment of Locally Advanced Breast Cancer using Doxorubicin and Cyclophosphamide followed by Docetaxel (TAXOTERE®) and Trastuzumab
GIAJFL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Drug interactions updated in Precautions</i>	Adjuvant Therapy of Colon Cancer using Fluorouracil Injection and Infusion and Folinic Acid (Leucovorin) Infusion
GIAVCAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Appointment section clarified</i>	Palliative Therapy of Advanced Colorectal Cancer using Capecitabine
GIAVFL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Drug interactions updated in Precautions</i>	Palliative Combination Chemotherapy for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Using 5-Fluorouracil Injection and Infusion and Folinic Acid (Leucovorin) Infusion
GIAVPG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>CAP requirement changed to class II, pancreas cancer deleted from eligibility</i>	First-Line Palliative Chemotherapy for Advanced Gallbladder Cancer and Cholangiocarcinoma using Gemcitabine and Cisplatin
UGICIRB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Blood pressure measurement revised, bevacizumab infusion time revised</i>	Palliative Combination Chemotherapy for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Using Irinotecan, Bevacizumab and Capecitabine
UGICOXB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Blood pressure measurement revised, bevacizumab infusion time revised</i>	Palliative Combination Chemotherapy for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Using Oxaliplatin, Bevacizumab and Capecitabine
UGIFFIRB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Blood pressure measurement and lab tests clarified</i>	Palliative Combination Chemotherapy for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Using Irinotecan, Fluorouracil, Folinic Acid (Leucovorin) and Bevacizumab
UGIFFOXB	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Blood pressure measurement and lab tests clarified</i>	Palliative Combination Chemotherapy for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer Using Oxaliplatin, 5-Fluorouracil, Folinic Acid (Leucovorin) and Bevacizumab
GIFUFA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Drug interactions updated in Precautions</i>	Palliative Therapy of Advanced Colorectal Cancer using Leucovorin and Fluorouracil
GIFUINF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Drug interactions updated in Precautions</i>	Palliative Chemotherapy for Metastatic Colorectal Adenocarcinoma using Infusional Fluorouracil
GIGAVECC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Dose modifications for renal dysfunction clarified, typo corrected in drug interactions</i>	Palliative Therapy for Metastatic or Locally Advanced Gastric or Esophagogastric Cancer Using Epirubicin, Cisplatin and Capecitabine
GOOVLDOX	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Priming of IV line clarified</i>	Treatment of Relapsed/Progressing, Epithelial Ovarian, Primary Peritoneal or Fallopian Tube Carcinoma Using Pegylated Liposomal Doxorubicin
GOOVIPPC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Reminder for entering date of prescription added</i>	Primary Treatment of Stage III less than or equal to 1 cm Visible Residual Invasive Epithelial Ovarian Cancer Using Intravenous and Intraperitoneal Paclitaxel and Intraperitoneal Carboplatin
UGUTIP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Eligibility and Dose Modifications clarified</i>	Advanced Therapy for Testicular Germ Cell Cancer Using Paclitaxel, Ifosfamide and Cisplatin (TIP)

CODE	Protocol	PPPO	Patient Handout	Changes	Protocol Title
GUVEIP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Eligibility clarified</i>	Consolidation/Salvage Treatment for Germ Cell Cancer Using Vinblastine, Cisplatin, Ifosfamide and Mesna

## WEBSITE RESOURCES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

WEBSITE RESOURCES	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca">www.bccancer.bc.ca</a>
REIMBURSEMENT AND FORMS: BENEFIT DRUG LIST, CLASS II, BC CANCER AGENCY COMPASSIONATE ACCESS PROGRAM	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Forms">www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Forms</a>
CANCER DRUG MANUAL	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/cdm">www.bccancer.bc.ca/cdm</a>
CANCER MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/CaMgmtGuidelines">www.bccancer.bc.ca/CaMgmtGuidelines</a>
CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY PROTOCOLS, PRE-PRINTED ORDERS, PROTOCOL PATIENT HANDOUTS	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/ChemoProtocols">www.bccancer.bc.ca/ChemoProtocols</a>
SYSTEMIC THERAPY PROGRAM POLICIES	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Policies">www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/Policies</a>
SYSTEMIC THERAPY UPDATE	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/stupdate">www.bccancer.bc.ca/HPI/ChemotherapyProtocols/stupdate</a>

CONTACT INFORMATION	<a href="http://www.bccancer.bc.ca">www.bccancer.bc.ca</a>	<a href="mailto:bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca">bulletin@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
BC CANCER AGENCY .....	(604) 877-6000 .....	Toll-Free 1-(800) 663-3333
PROVINCIAL SYSTEMIC THERAPY PROGRAM .....	Ext 2247 .....	<a href="mailto:mclin@bccancer.bc.ca">mclin@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
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COMPASSIONATE ACCESS PROGRAM OFFICE.....	Ext 6277 .....	<a href="mailto:cap_bcca@bccancer.bc.ca">cap_bcca@bccancer.bc.ca</a>
	Fax (604) 708-2026	
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VANCOUVER CENTRE (VCC).....	(604) 877-6000 .....	Toll-Free 1-(800) 663-3333
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