

CAR T-Cell Therapy Referrals: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Standard of care adult CAR T-cell therapy has been available within BC since January 2024. Due to limited capacity in BC, some patients will still need to receive CAR T-cell therapy out of province.

This FAQ document describes the referral process and answers common questions that referring providers may have.

For any questions related to the CAR T referral process, please email CARTReferrals@bccancer.bc.ca.

How do I refer a patient for CAR T-cell therapy?

The BC Cancer Provincial Virtual Oncology Nursing Team serves as a centralized intake (“one-stop shop”) for standard of care CAR T-cell therapy referrals. Our team will navigate funding approvals, assess capacity at CAR T centres and forward patient referrals to CAR T treating sites on behalf of providers. Only Ministry funded indications and patients who meet eligibility criteria will be approved.

To refer a patient, email CARTReferrals@bccancer.bc.ca with:

- A) A completed **referral form**;
- B) A summary letter/clinical note of the patient’s treatment course to date; and
- C) Other relevant consult and clinical notes.

Please note the following:

- There is no need for Lymphoma Conference review or inclusion of the results of investigations with the referral. The Provincial Virtual Oncology Nursing Team will collate test results. **We do however need your help identifying and providing the relevant clinical notes.**
- Please do not send a separate referral to the CAR T treatment centre (apart from referrals to Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) for CAR T-cell therapy ***clinical trials***).
- The Provincial Virtual Oncology Nursing Team will submit a Compassionate Access Program (CAP) application on your behalf and email you the CAP decision once completed.
- If your patient is referred for CAR T treatment OOP/C, the Provincial Virtual Oncology Nursing Team will also navigate additional Ministry funding approvals.

What if funding for CAR T-cell therapy is denied via CAP?

For CAP denials, a single appeal with ‘Subject Line: CAR T APPEAL’ can be submitted via email to CARTReferrals@bccancer.bc.ca. Please include the rationale for appeal and include any cited evidence/published literature.

What are the other responsibilities of the referring provider?

- **Arrange any tests that are outstanding.** Our Provincial Virtual Oncology Nursing Team will contact referring providers if there are elements of the referral that are missing/outdated. In our experience, that is often assessments of cardiac function (echocardiogram or MUGA) and hepatitis/HIV serology.
- **Ensure post-CART therapy follow-up and testing is arranged.** In collaboration with our provincial CAR T and transplant ID experts, we have developed **[BC Cancer Post CAR T Guidelines](#)**. Please note that there are some minor differences from the recommendations provided by some of our OOP partner centres. Please refer to the Post-CART Management Guideline available on our website for more information.

- **You may be contacted by the Provincial Virtual Oncology Nursing Team to answer specific questions from the treating centre about your patient.** If there is limited capacity across treating sites, you may also be contacted to confirm if estimated wait times are clinically suitable for your patient or if other options need to be explored.

What role (if any) will the BC Cancer Provincial Virtual Oncology Nursing Support Team provide post- CAR T-cell therapy?

Following discharge from the CAR T treatment centre, post-CART therapy management will be the responsibility of the referring providers and their care teams. Our Provincial Virtual Oncology Nursing Support Team cannot arrange any testing for patients.

Our Provincial Virtual Oncology Nursing Support Team will however contact patients at 3-months post-treatment to notify them of the [***BCCDC post-CAR T immunization recommendations***](#) and provide the Immunization Worksheet for completion through their local public health unit. They will also contact the patient at 24-months to remind patients of the recommendations for IgG testing following MMR vaccination. This will occur for both IP and OOP/C patients.

I need advice about a CAR T-cell therapy issue. Who do I contact?

Referring providers will have questions about CAR T-cell therapy, such as patient suitability for CAR T-cell therapy or queries regarding post-CART management.

If the patient has received CAR T-cell therapy and has an identified CAR T provider, please feel free to contact the patient's CAR T provider.

Dr. Hannah Cherniawsky and Dr. Kevin Song with the VGH LBMT Program are also available to provide advice and can be reached through the VGH Division of Hematology (604) 875-4863 or the BC Cancer email system. Please email CARTReferrals@bccancezr.bc.ca if you need their contact information.