



TO: Hospitals  
 Regional Cancer Programs  
 Heads of Medical Oncology  
 Ontario Cancer Leads and Drug Advisory Committees  
 Chairs of Disease Site Groups  
 Regional Vice Presidents

FROM: Scott Gavura, Director, Provincial Drug Reimbursement Programs

CC: Dr. Leta Forbes, Provincial Head, Systemic Treatment Program  
 Dr. Kelvin Chan, Clinical Lead, Provincial Drug Reimbursement Programs  
 Dr. Paul Gibson, Associate Medical Director, Clinical Affairs, Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario (POGO)  
 David Schachow, Director, Drug Programs Delivery Branch, Drugs and Devices Division

DATE: August 6, 2019

SUBJECT: **Provincial Drug Reimbursement Programs (PDRP) Update**

- Daunorubicin Supply Status Update (\*New\*)
- Fludarabine Supply Status Update

**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL CANCER CARE PROVIDERS**

**A. Daunorubicin Supply Status Update**

Daunorubicin is an injectable cancer drug that is Health Canada approved for use in acute leukemias (adults and pediatrics). Daunorubicin may also be used in the treatment of sarcomas as well as lymphomas.

Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) was recently notified of a supply interruption of this drug where Erfa Canada is the sole source manufacturer. At this time, the daunorubicin supply status is as follows:

Brand	DIN	Vial Size	Dosage Form	Availability*	Estimated Resupply Date*
Daunorubicin (Cerubidine™)	01926683	20 mg	Powder for solution	On backorder	August 20, 2019

**\*For the most up-to-date information on supply status and ordering procedures, please contact the manufacturer and/or your distributor directly.**

For the duration of this supply interruption, hospitals/cancer centres are advised to consider implementing conservation strategies (if not already done so) suggested by provincial cancer experts, including the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario (POGO):

- **Adult acute myeloid leukemia protocols:** Consider substitution of idarubicin 12 mg/m<sup>2</sup> for daunorubicin 60 mg/m<sup>2</sup> in induction protocols, and idarubicin 9 mg/m<sup>2</sup> for daunorubicin 45 mg/m<sup>2</sup> in consolidation cycles. Alternative dose equivalencies may also be used as clinically appropriate.
- Sites with available stock are encouraged to identify this to their Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) Drug Lead for potential reallocation to paediatric oncology centres in order to help address acute supply requirements in a setting where alternative anthracycline use is not as well defined.
- **Adult and pediatric acute lymphoblastic leukemia protocols:** May consider substitution with an equivalent dose of doxorubicin (with dexrazoxane as clinically indicated) in place of daunorubicin.

## **B. Fludarabine Supply Status Update**

CCO previously notified sites of an ongoing supply interruption affecting the intravenous (IV) formulation. Health Canada has now issued a 'no objection' letter in response to a proposal from Fresenius Kabi Canada to import and distribute up to 1,000 units of US-labelled product. Details on the timing of release and final quantity are currently pending from Fresenius Kabi Canada. Of note, sites are reminded that the expected US-labelled supply is intended to serve as a bridge until the regular Canadian supplier for this product (i.e., Teva Canada) returns to the market (estimated return-to-market date: September 30, 2019 based on information available on the Drug Shortages Canada website).

## **C. Drug Shortage Questions?**

Please direct any questions for CCO on drug shortages to Ron Fung, Clinical Program Manager, Provincial Drug Reimbursement Programs at [ron.fung@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:ron.fung@cancercare.on.ca) or Trip Gill, Team Lead, Provincial Drug Reimbursement Programs at [tripat.gill@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:tripat.gill@cancercare.on.ca).