



TO: Hospitals
Community Pharmacies
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
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DATE: November 22, 2019

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

- Tamoxifen Supply Status Update

**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL COMMUNITY PHARMACIES
AND CANCER CARE PROVIDERS**

A. Tamoxifen Supply Status Update

Tamoxifen is a type of oral hormonal therapy that is primarily used to treat hormone receptor-positive breast cancer (early stage or advanced). When used as part of adjuvant therapy for the treatment of early breast cancer, patients may take tamoxifen for between five and ten years. Tamoxifen may also be used for ovarian and endometrial cancers, and desmoid tumours, a type of sarcoma.

The supply status in Canada is as follows:

- Tamoxifen is supplied in Canada by three manufacturers (Apotex, AstraZeneca and Teva Canada) as 10 mg and 20 mg tablets.
- All three manufacturers are experiencing supply interruptions for the available tablet strengths. (See *Appendix I* for supply status for the various products.)
- Apotex is now reporting an improved resupply date of **December 31, 2019** (previous: January 31, 2020). At that time, Apotex expects to release sufficient product to cover multiple months of normal market demand, with additional inventory to follow by the end of January 2020.
- In efforts to better support the retail market, Teva Canada has now reallocated 600,000 of the 20 mg tablets to provide coverage for at least two weeks at normal market demand. Product should be available from distributors by the end of this week.

- AstraZeneca has been able to secure an additional 360,000 of the 20 mg tablets, which will be available on allocation at the beginning of December 2019. This supply is expected to provide at least one full week of normal market coverage.
- With the recent improvements in resupply dates and the estimated arrival into Canada of foreign-labelled product, none of the manufacturers have confirmed they will be moving ahead with an importation option at this time.
- Health Canada, the Ministry of Health, Cancer Care Ontario (CCO), and the Canadian Association of Provincial Cancer Agencies (CAPCA) continue to work with Canadian manufacturers to address restoration of supply.

B. Provider Guidance

To assist with patient-provider conversations on this shortage, information has been posted on the CCO website (<https://www.cancercareontario.ca/en/tamoxifen-supply-interruption>) which includes a link to a patient fact sheet “*Tamoxifen shortage: Important information for patients*” developed by CCO with input from pharmacy experts.

An information update from Health Canada on the tamoxifen shortage has also been posted online and is accessible at the links below:

- English – <https://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2019/71656a-eng.php>
- French – <http://canadiensensante.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2019/71656a-fra.php>

CCO and the Ministry of Health are in regular communication with the manufacturers and Health Canada, and we will provide additional information on the supply status of tamoxifen as it becomes available.

C. Drug Shortage Questions?

Please direct any questions for Cancer Care Ontario on drug shortages to Ron Fung, Clinical Program Manager, Provincial Drug Reimbursement Programs at ron.fung@cancercare.on.ca or Trip Gill, Team Lead, Provincial Drug Reimbursement Programs at tripat.gill@cancercare.on.ca.

Appendix 1

Table 1: Manufacturer Supply Status of Tamoxifen as of November 22, 2019*

Brand	DIN	Dosage Form	Availability	Estimated Resupply Date
Apotex Inc.	00812404	10 mg tablet	Out of stock	December 31, 2019
Apotex Inc.	00812390	20 mg tablet	Out of stock	December 31, 2019
AstraZeneca Canada Inc.	02048485	20 mg tablet	Out of stock (may be limited supply at distributors)	December 6, 2019 (limited quantities will be available on allocation)
Teva Canada	00851965	10 mg tablet	Available on allocation	January 31, 2020
Teva Canada	00851973	20 mg tablet	Available on allocation	January 31, 2020

**Local supply levels may vary. For the most up-to-date information on supply status and ordering procedures, please contact the manufacturer and/or distributors directly.*