Access to Medications and Drug Benefits

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The Retired Teachers of Ontario
June 7, 2009
Canadian Patient Access to Prescription Drug Reimbursement

• Private Group Health Plans and wellness programs through employers
• Provincial/Territorial Drug Benefit Programs
  – E.g. Ontario Drug Benefit, British Columbia Pharmacare
• Federal Drug Programs
  – Non Insured Health Benefits
  – Veterans Affairs Canada
  – Public Services Health Care Plan
  – Interim Federal Health Program
  – Canadian Forces
  – Corrections Services Canada
Private Insurance/Third Party Plans

- Open access vs. Formulary based plans
- Copay and deductibles
- Caps (yearly or lifetime)
- Special authorization for certain drugs
- Employer chooses the insurance plan
  – can change it or make one time exceptions at any time
Ontario Drug Benefit Program

• people 65 years of age and older;
• residents of long-term care facilities;
• residents of Homes for Special Care;
• people receiving professional services under the Home Care program;
• Trillium Drug Program recipients.
• receiving social assistance (Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program)
Drug Coverage by ODB

- ODB Formulary/ Comparative Drug Index
- ODB Limited Use Medications
- ODB Special Drugs Programs (specific conditions)
- ODB EAP (ICR /Section 16 for unlisted drugs)
  - Request via a Form or Letter from physician
  - may have specific criteria for certain meds
  - Criteria may not have been established
  - Usually no coverage for a med that is under review at CDR or JODR
Trillium Drug Program

Who is eligible:

• your private insurance does not cover 100% of your prescription drug costs (or no private insurance);
• you have valid Ontario Health Insurance (OHIP); and
• you are **not** already eligible for drug coverage under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program

What drugs are covered:

• Drugs listed in the ODB Formulary (regular and limited use)
• Drugs covered through the ODB EAP/ICR/ Section 16 mechanism
Trillium Drug Program

Deductible:
- Based on income and family size

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<th>Net Income</th>
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<th>Family &gt;3 *</th>
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* Yearly deductible
Trillium Drug Program

- Applications available at retail pharmacies
- Applications on www.DrugCoverage.ca
- Trillium Drug Program Information line (416) 326-1558, 1-800-575-5386
Special Authorization

- Process through which an insurer makes a prescriber request coverage for a specific drug before granting approval for reimbursement of drug costs
- Involves writing a special authorization request letter (or form)
- Must give clinical information and rational for use
- There may be guidelines associated with the use of certain drugs
Cancer Medications and Coverage

Cancer medications:
- chemotherapeutic agents
- biological agents
- supportive care meds,
- anti-nausea drugs,
- pain medications,
- antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals
- Others

Payer

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Ontario Patient Access to Cancer Drug Coverage

• Provincial Payer
  – Hospital Drug Budgets (in-patient)
  – Cancer Care Ontario/ODB (in-patient)
  – Ontario Drug Benefit/Trillium Drug Program (out-patient)

• Private Group Health Plans through employers
  – Out-patient medications
  – Can include intravenous chemotherapy given in a non-hospital clinic

• Federal Drug Programs (out-patient)
  – Non-Insured Health Benefits
  – Veterans Affairs Canada
  – Canadian Forces Health Plan
  – Public Services Health Care Plan
  – Interim Federal Health Program
  – Corrections Services Canada
Take Home Cancer Drugs
- oral chemo agents
- hormone therapies
- tyrosine kinase inhibitors
- supportive care meds
- misc. drugs
- does not include iv agents
Drug Coverage for metastatic Colorectal Cancer Patients (iv meds)

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<th>AVASTIN</th>
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Source: www.DrugCoverage.org
Private Insurance Coverage of Intravenous Chemotherapy Agents

- i.v. chemotherapy/biological agents can be covered by private insurance plans (e.g. Avastin)
- Coverage of medications varies from plan to plan
- Usually requires a Special Authorization request
- Must be given in a non-hospital clinic (some insurers)
- **Provis Infusion Clinic** in Toronto is an example
- **Bayshore Clinics** – national network
- **Shoppers Drug Mart Specialty Health Network** – national network
SAP Programs

- For drugs not yet approved by Health Canada
- May or may not be free (manufacturer allowed to charge for the med)
- May have reimbursement search/financial means test before giving free meds
- SAP Examples:
  - Thalidomide
Safety Net/Compassionate Use Copay Assistance Programs

- Offered by some pharmaceutical companies
- Differ company to company
- Often income based
- May be national program or specific to province
- May be contingent upon first attempting to access available provincial, private insurance
- Individual programs at specific institutions
- Approach the company (product specialist, reimbursement manager, product manager) for information
A Resource for Patients and Healthcare Professionals

www.DrugCoverage.ca
• Allows you to find out what prescription drug insurance you may be eligible for
• Information on private insurance, provincial/territorial drug benefit, federal programs
• Special attention to Special Authorization
• Coverage of Cancer Medications section (and other therapeutic areas)
• Links to specific programs, forms, criteria
• Rejected Claims, DIN search, FAQs
Welcome to DrugCoverage.ca, your guide to reimbursement for prescription medications in Canada.

Prescription Drug Coverage in Canada

Most Canadians have access to reimbursement for prescription medications through private insurance plans (third-party insurance), the provincial / territorial drug benefit programs or federal programs for certain groups. This site provides information on these programs and provides links to important pages of their websites. Click on the province of interest (either on the map or on the dropdown menu) for an overview of the private insurance, provincial / territorial drug benefit programs and federal programs available to residents of that province or territory. Alternatively you can go directly to any program or page using the sidebar menu.

Select a Province

Reimbursement of Medications for:
- ADHD
- Alzheimer's
- Anemia
- Antibiotics/ Antifungals
- Arthritis
- Birth Control
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular
- Diabetes
- Epilepsy
- Erectile Dysfunction
- GERD
- Glaucoma
- HIV/AIDS
- Human Growth Hormone
- Kidney/Renal
- Liver Disease & Hepatitis
- Mental Health
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Osteoporosis/ metabolic bone disease
- PAH Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension
- Parkinson's
www.DrugCoverage.org
A Resource for Healthcare Professionals and Patients with Prescriptions

- Lists individual medications
- Reimbursement pages/tools for coverage of specific medications through all drug plans and programs
- Includes coverage criteria/guidelines, Special Authorization forms, Special Authorization letter writing guides, Patient Assistance Programs, etc.
This Web site is Intended for Canadian Health Professionals.

Please enter the following:

Name of Medication (Brand name or chemical name)

Drug Identification Number (DIN)

☐ I agree to the Terms of Use of this Web site

Go

For the prescription medications included on DrugCoverage.org, this site provides specific information on reimbursement/coverage through Private Insurance plans, individual Provincial/Territorial Drug Benefit Programs, Provincial Cancer Agencies and Federal plans. It also provides the appropriate forms, requirements for special authority/exception drug request letters and instructions on submission of claims.

Medications included in DrugCoverage.org:

Abraxane
Alesse
Amevive
Avastin
Eprex
Exjade
Fludara
Herceptin
MabCampath
Meridia
Myocet
Neulasta
Neupogen
Nexavar
RisperdalCONsta
Rituxan
Sativex
Sebivo
Tarceva
Torisel
Xeloda
Zevalin

Ce site s'adresse aux professionnels de santé

Veuillez entrer le nom du médicament ainsi que son numéro d'identification (DIN) ci-dessous.

Nom du médicament (Marque ou nom chimique)

L'identification numérique du médicament (DIN)

English

For ordonnance inscrits sur le site DrugCoverage.org, vous pouvez obtenir des informations spécifiques sur le remboursement pour prescription médicaments through plans/programs available in Canada. You can also access the details on the costs of many of these programs for the medication.

Abraxane
Alesse
Amevive
Avastin
Eprex
Exjade
Fludara
Herceptin
MabCampath
Meridia
Myocet
Neulasta
Neupogen
Nexavar
RisperdalCONsta
Rituxan
Sativex
Sebivo
Tarceva
Torisel
Xeloda
Zevalin
Tarceva® (erlotinib) Reimbursement/ Coverage by Private Insurance

Roche Patient Assistance Program 1-888-748-8926
The Roche Patient Assistance Program will investigate reimbursement options for patients who have been prescribed Roche rheumatoid arthritis, oncology and hematology therapies. For oncologists or hematologists who wish to print off a Patient Enrollment Form, please click here.

Tarceva® is an eligible benefit through most private insurance plans.

Is Tarceva® covered by my private insurance plan?
Most plans (over 90% of plans) cover Tarceva®. To determine if Tarceva® is covered by your private insurance plan, phone your insurance carrier before you go to the pharmacy to determine the extent of your coverage. You will need to supply the insurance company with your policy number or group health benefits number (if you do not know this number, the Human Resources manager at your employer will have it). You will also need to know the drug information number (DIN) for Tarceva®. The DINs are 02269023 (150 mg), 02269015 (100mg). Some plans may require that a Special Authorization Form or Letter be sent to the insurance company from the patient's physician before they authorize reimbursement. If your plan requires this please see the list of insurance companies below and click on your company's name to access the proper form.
For a guide to writing a Special Authorization Letter to any company, click here.
For a list of insurance company phone numbers, click here.

A small minority of private insurance plans may not immediately cover Tarceva®. This may be because these plans only cover drugs that are on a specific formulary. Your employer, who purchases the drug plan for employees, has the option of adding Tarceva® to the list of benefits that are covered. For assistance with asking your employer to cover Tarceva® as an exception to your drug plan, click here.

Special Authorization Forms
Click on the company name to bring up a copy of their special authorization form.
Alberta Blue Cross Prior Authorization Form
Atlantic Medavie Special Authorization Form
Canada Life Exception Status Drug Form
ClaimSecure Special Authorization Form
Empire Financial Special Authorization Form
GWL Prior Authorization Form
Green Shield Special Authorization Form
Manitoba Blue Cross Special Authorization Letter
Manulife Special Authorization Form
# Request for NEUPOGEN® (filgrastim, r-methHuG-CSF)

## Individual Clinical Review (ICR)

Fax completed form to (416) 327-7526 or toll-free (866)-811-9908

## Prescriber Information

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## Drug Requested

- **Drug Product Requested:** NEUPOGEN  DIN 01968017
- **Patient's Weight (kg):** 
- **Date NEUPOGEN therapy will begin:**
- **# of days of NEUPOGEN required per cycle of chemotherapy:**
- **# of cycles of chemotherapy for which NEUPOGEN is required:**

<table>
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<th>300 mcg</th>
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## Diagnosis and Chemotherapy

### Diagnosis:

### Stage:

### Grade:

### Chemotherapy Regimen:

### Treatment Intent:

- Curative intent
- Treatment may prolong survival
- Other:

No alternate chemotherapy regimen which offers equivalent efficacy is currently available