

## pCODR Update

April 16, 2013

Hello,

In July 2011, the pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review began accepting submissions from pharmaceutical manufacturers and clinician-based tumour groups. As of March 31, 2013, pCODR completed 13 reviews and had another 13 under review. We are committed to transparency and at this time we would like to provide you with the following updates:

### Public Posting of Funding Decisions

pCODR provides consistency and clarity to the cancer drug review process and ensures that all provinces and cancer agencies (excluding Quebec) benefit from a single, clear approach to new cancer drug evaluation, benefiting from the same evidence and principles to ensure provinces and territories have the best possible information to base their funding decisions. There are many factors that go into a province's (or cancer agency's) decision to fund an oncology drug. These include, but are not limited to, available budget, regional health system priorities and local program design. A pCODR recommendation is one of several factors considered prior to a funding decision. As committed by the pCODR Steering Committee, we will start publicly summarizing the funding decisions made by each province for all drugs/indications reviewed by pCODR. We will begin this exciting initiative later this spring and will provide you with more details in the coming months.

### Participants on Guidance Panels

pCODR relies on the medical expertise of its Clinical Guidance Panels to ensure that the review of each cancer drug draws from the most important, relevant and current clinical information. pCODR also relies on the expertise of its Economic Guidance Panels to assess the economic evidence of all drug submissions provided to pCODR. The work of these Panel members is closely considered by the pCODR Expert Review Committee when making its recommendations. We are pleased to make available the memberships of all pCODR's expert panel during our first year of operations at: [Panels](#). This step is being undertaken to show the high calibre of expertise used during the review process. Panel lists will be updated periodically to reflect changes to the panel memberships.

### Queuing of Submissions

pCODR works diligently with its operational partners to ensure the process delivers high quality, rigorous and consistent reviews. The number of active reviews at any given time depends on a number of factors, such as, the total number of submissions under consideration and the unique mix of experts and resources required by each submission.

pCODR is currently in receipt of a high volume of new submissions. Consequently, several new submissions will be scheduled (queued) for a later pCODR Expert Review Committee (pERC) meeting agenda than originally targeted. The affected manufacturer(s) will be notified and the pCODR website will be updated to reflect the revised target pERC meeting dates. Further information relating to how the prioritization and order of pCODR Reviews is determined is available in [pCODR Procedures](#) (pages 12 and 13).

**Recent Article on pCODR**

pCODR was recently profiled in *Current Oncology*, a peer-reviewed, Canadian-based and internationally respected journal. *Current Oncology* represents a multidisciplinary medium encompassing health care workers in the field of cancer therapy in Canada to report upon and to review progress in the management of this disease. I invite you to read this article to learn more about the pCODR review process and its role in oncology drug reimbursement. The article may be accessed at: [Informing Canada's cancer drug funding decisions with scientific evidence and patient perspectives: the Pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review](#).

Our goal and commitment to Canadians is to ensure that, with the increasing introduction of new and complex cancer drugs, pCODR will continue to bring consistency and clarity to the cancer drug review process, leveraging best practices and expertise from across Canada to ensure provinces and territories have the best possible information on which to base their funding decisions. We are committed to transparency and keeping you informed of important pCODR announcements. I welcome your comments about these recent announcements.

Sincerely,



Mona Sabharwal  
Executive Director