

December 21, 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing, first, to thank you for your continued involvement with the pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review (pCODR) as we work to establish this new, evidence-based cancer drug review process. The pCODR is designed to assess the clinical evidence and cost-effectiveness of new cancer drugs, and to use this information to make recommendations to the provinces and territories in guiding their drug funding decisions.

Second, as I had committed to doing, I would like to provide a summary of the feedback we received as a result of the information sessions we hosted with patient groups in late November and early December.

- In terms of patient member qualifications for the pCODR Expert Review Panel (pERC), we heard that personal experience with cancer is important, and that patient members sitting on pERC should be able to take the information from those meetings (that isn't covered by a confidentiality agreement) and update the cancer community. In addition, some people expressed a desire to be able to nominate patient members for any of the panels.
 - The current patient member qualifications for the pERC have been confirmed by the Steering Committee. pCODR welcomes patients for any of the committees and panels, as long as they meet the additional qualifications of those committees and panels.

I have shared the following feedback, as well as that of other stakeholders, with the Steering Committee. They will consider all perspectives when making a determination.

- We heard that patient groups would like to provide feedback at three points during the submission review process.
- We heard that patient groups would like to see their feedback – and that of all other interested parties – posted publicly throughout the process.
- We understand that many patient groups would like to see a public report of each jurisdiction's decisions after pCODR recommendations are made.

I will be in touch with the Steering Committee's decisions, after the holiday period.

In terms of our next steps, we are moving forward with our planned February launch of pCODR. To that end, we look forward to receiving nominations by January 7th for the Clinical and Economic Guidance Panels; January 14th for pCODR Expert Review Committee Chair; and by January 21st for pCODR Expert Review Committee. You can also provide suggestions for the pERC Chair; an email with your suggestions would be appreciated by January 21st.

The nomination package is available at www.pcodr.ca and all nominations can be sent to nominations@pcodr.ca. Please note that we will email you additional information about patient member nominations by December 23rd.

We look forward to our continued work together,

Sincerely,



Mona Sabharwal
Executive Director