

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 session we hosted with pharmaceutical manufacturers in late November.

- We had suggested allowing pre-NOC submissions. We heard strong support for this and there were a number of thoughtful suggestions on how to establish an approach for accepting a pre-NOC submission. We are moving forward with pre-NOC submissions as part of the pCODR process; details are in development.
- We had asked how clarification of information during a review should be done. We heard that a structured and scheduled manner would be best. This is in development.

I have shared the following feedback, as well as that of other stakeholders, with the Steering Committee. They are considering all perspectives, as they make a determination on these issues.

- We heard concern about how two submission streams (i.e. one from pharmaceutical manufacturers and the other from tumour groups) will work. There is a desire to have a communications structure in place so that manufacturers know when a tumour group has submitted a drug for consideration.
- Many manufacturers would like to involve members of the clinical and economic review panels in the pre-submission planning meeting.

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

We also heard that manufacturers would like the opportunity to comment on an initial recommendation before it is publicly posted. In keeping with the pCODR principle of transparency, all stakeholders—patient groups, pharmaceutical manufacturers—will have the opportunity to comment on initial recommendations at the same time.

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

We look forward to our continued work together,

Sincerely,



Mona Sabharwal
Executive Director