

February 4, 2011

Hello,

Development of the pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review (pCODR) has progressed well over the last few months; this email provides an update on the nominations process, transition timing and pre-submission planning.

Nominations update

The nominations process for the guidance panels and the Expert Review Committee has generated a great deal of interest from across the country, resulting in many high calibre applications. Careful consideration is being given to each application to ensure that we have the right people in the right positions. We expect to announce the Chair of the pCODR Expert Review Committee in the next two weeks or so.

Transition from iJODR to pCODR

We have been working to transition from the interim Joint Oncology Drug Review (iJODR) process to pCODR and had initially targeted later this month to begin accepting new submissions to pCODR. The target timing has shifted by a few months to allow us to align with the governmental fiscal calendar of April to March, and to provide sufficient time for panel and committee members to be selected and become familiar with their important new roles. As such, we anticipate that pCODR will begin accepting new submissions in April 2011.

Pre-submission planning

If your organization is planning to submit a drug for review in the first quarter of the 2011/2012 fiscal year (or later), we encourage you to email info@pcodr.ca so that we can begin pre-submission planning activities with you. You will be sent a pCODR pre-submission planning form to complete. pCODR will use the form to ensure that the appropriate resources are in place so that the review can proceed smoothly once your submission is made. If your organization will be submitting a drug for review before the end of the 2010/2011 fiscal year—that is, before March 31, 2011—we encourage you to contact the iJODR team directly.

Since being appointed Executive Director in September 2010, I have appreciated the commitment of industry, patient groups and governments from across Canada to developing a rigorous and transparent oncology drug review process. We hope the results of that effort will be apparent when pCODR begins accepting its first submissions.

I will be back to you with a further update in the coming weeks. In the meantime should you have any questions or concerns, I welcome your feedback.

Sincerely,



Mona Sabharwal
Executive Director