

TO: Medical Directors
BC Nephrologists
Pharmacy Directors
Renal Administrators
Renal Pharmacists
BC Renal Community Pharmacies
BC Renal Leadership

October 30, 2020

Re: BC Renal GN Formulary switching from Rituxan[®] to a biosimilar rituximab (Riximyo[™])

Dear Colleagues,

As previously announced, BC Renal will match the funding approach from BC Cancer and switch from the originator rituximab (Rituxan[®]) to the biosimilar Riximyo[™]. This change starts today - **October 30, 2020**.

Given this change, please be aware of the following:

- All new applications approved for reimbursement by BC Renal will be for the biosimilar Riximyo[™].
- Given there are now four (4) rituximab products available in Canada, prescriptions should specify the name of the product desired (e.g. Riximyo[™]). If the name is not specified, Riximyo[™] will be provided for patients reimbursed by BC Renal, or the pharmacy may request clarification from the prescriber.
- Patients currently receiving the originator Rituxan[®] will have a 6-month window (until April 29, 2020) to transition to the biosimilar Riximyo[™]. This time period allows patients to switch to Riximyo[™] between treatment courses. Of note, a new prescription for Riximyo[™] will need to be provided for patients with an active prescription for Rituxan[®]. A [medication information sheet](#) is available to help facilitate the discussion with your patients.
- When switching between rituximab products, it is recommended that the infusion be restarted at the slowest rate.
- If a patient develops an intolerance to Riximyo[™], the other biosimilar rituximabs (Ruxience[™] and then Truxima[™]) will be made available, followed by the originator Rituxan[®].

For more information, please refer to the [BC Renal GN webpage](#) where all of the updated rituximab materials such as the medication information sheet, infusion protocol and application form are located. If you have any questions or comments, please email bcpra@bcpra.ca

Sincerely,



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