

First Nations Health Authority  
Fraser Health Authority  
Interior Health Authority  
Island Health Authority  
Provincial Health Services Authority  
Providence Health Authority  
Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

September 22, 2020

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

Dear Colleagues,

In August 2020, our partner organizations BC Cancer and BC PharmaCare switched from the originator rituximab (Rituxan®) to one or all of the available biosimilar rituximabs in Canada (Riximyo™, Ruxience™ and Truxima™). BC Renal will accompany this initiative and match the funding approach from BC Cancer; therefore, BC Renal will only reimburse Riximyo as of **October 30, 2020**.

One reason for this change is that Rituxan accounts for between 20 to 25% of the entire annual expenditure for the BC Renal Glomerulonephritis Formulary. Across Canada, \$241 million was spent on Rituxan in 2016, making it one of the top 10 highest biologic expenditures in the country.

Savings from changing coverage to Riximyo will be reinvested into other treatments for patients with kidney disease. Please be assured the rituximab biosimilar agents have undergone rigorous testing to ensure their mechanism of action is equivalent to Rituxan.

For more information, please refer to the frequently asked questions (FAQs) document accompanying this email.

If you have any questions and comments, please email [bcpra@bcpra.ca](mailto:bcpra@bcpra.ca)

Sincerely,



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**Health Authority Renal Programs**

BC Children's Provincial Renal Program, Fraser Health,  
Interior Health, Island Health, Providence Health Care,  
Vancouver Coastal Health

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