Canadian Blood Services
BLOOD PLASMA STEM CELLS ORGANS & TISSUES

1800 Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa ON K1G 4J5

blood.ca

August 30, 2023

Distribution Modernization Alberta Pilot – Project Update and Further Details

As you know, Canadian Blood Services is responsible for securing and providing plasma protein and related products (PPRP) to hospitals across Canada for use by clinicians and their patients in all provinces and territories (except Quebec). Currently, patients using products at home generally pick up their supply from the hospital and then administer the treatment at home.

Canadian Blood Services is committed to working with clinicians, patient groups and governments to optimize the distribution and utilization of PPRPs. As part of this commitment, Canadian Blood Services has announced a year-long pilot in Alberta which will leverage a specialty pharmacy provider to dispense emicizumab (Hemlibra®), a medication prescribed in the treatment of hemophilia A with or without inhibitors.

During the pilot, Canadian Blood Services will distribute emicizumab in Alberta to a specialty pharmacy which will dispense and deliver emicizumab to patients' homes. The specialty pharmacy will also provide clinical services necessary for dispensing, such as assessing the appropriateness of the prescription and providing patient counselling, as required.

A few key details to note:

1. The pilot is now expected to launch in mid-fall 2023. Canadian Blood Services will continue to provide more information, including details on the specialty pharmacy vendor and timelines for any changes, once confirmed.
2. Canadian Blood Services is working closely with hospitals, prescribers, and clinical staff in Alberta to ensure that patients in Alberta who use emicizumab maintain reliable access to product through the specialty pharmacy.
3. All emicizumab patients in Alberta will be notified in advance by their existing care team and will be provided with any required instructions and contact information before they begin receiving product via specialty pharmacy services for this pilot.
4. As is currently the case with products distributed through the blood banks, patients and hospitals will not be required to pay any fees for the new services of the pilot.
5. New prescriptions and contract renewals will continue to be the responsibility of the treating clinician/clinic team and will continue to follow the current process (i.e., submit form to CBS to ensure patient meets criteria). It is expected that most patients will continue to follow the pattern of receiving 3 months' supply at a time.

1800 Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa ON K1G 4J5

blood.ca

6. Clinics will still be the main patient point of contact for bleed management and other clinical issues. If clinical issues are noted by the specialty pharmacy when communicating with patients, they will be referred to their care provider.
7. The use of CBDR and myCBDR by clinics and patients can continue as usual.

With this new model being tested during the pilot, the medication will continue to be supplied from the manufacturer to Canadian Blood Services and the funding model will not change. The specialty pharmacy will then dispense the product to eligible patients. Patients and hospitals will not be required to pay any fees for the new services of the pilot.

If you have any questions about this project, please reach out to the Canadian Blood Services Formulary program at: PPRPFormularyProgram@blood.ca.

Best,

Sylvain Grenier, CD, B Pharm, PharmD, FFIP, FOPQ

Director – Plasma Protein and Related Products Formulary Program

Medical Affairs and Innovation

Canadian Blood Services