Canadian Hemophilia Society
Help Stop the Bleeding
Société canadienne de l'hémophilie
Arrêtons l'hémorragie

Contracts for ELOCTATE and ALPROLIX renewed by CBS

Montreal – March 29, 2017 – The Canadian Hemophilia Society has learned that contracts for Eloctate®, an extended half-life recombinant factor VIII, and Alprolix®, an extended half-life factor IX, both manufactured by Biogen, have been renewed by Canadian Blood Services (CBS) for the period April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

Contracts for other factor VIII products—Kovaltry®, manufactured by Bayer, Nuwiq®, manufactured by Octapharma and Xyntha®, manufactured by Pfizer—and the factor IX product, Benefix®, manufactured by Pfizer, took effect on April 1, 2016 and run until March 31, 2018.

Both Eloctate for hemophilia A and Alprolix, for hemophilia B are indicated in adults and children for:

- routine prophylactic treatment to prevent or reduce the frequency of bleeding episodes;
- control and prevention of bleeding episodes;
- perioperative management (surgical prophylaxis).

In 2016, the National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products developed specific criteria for starting the use of Eloctate or Alprolix, which are still in effect. They include:

1. Evidence that peripheral infusion of standard factor VIII or IX concentrates cannot be accomplished reasonably without the placement of a central line which could be avoided by using Eloctate/Alprolix;
2. Less than expected half-life of the standard factor VIII or IX concentrate currently used by the patient with no evidence of a factor VIII or IX inhibitor;
3. Other appropriate criteria for starting patients would include any of the following:

   a) To improve compliance with a prophylactic regimen of Eloctate/Alprolix for a patient with severe or moderate hemophilia A or B currently on a prophylaxis regimen with a standard factor concentrate;

   b) To improve quality of life by using a prophylactic regimen of Eloctate/Alprolix for a patient with severe or moderate hemophilia A or B currently on a prophylaxis regimen with a standard factor concentrate;

   c) To decrease frequent breakthrough bleeds by using a prophylactic regimen of Eloctate/Alprolix for a patient with severe or moderate hemophilia A or B currently on a prophylaxis regimen with a standard factor concentrate;

   d) To decrease frequent bleeds by using a prophylactic regimen of Eloctate/Alprolix for a patient with severe or moderate hemophilia A or B with frequent bleeding events currently using on-demand therapy with a standard factor concentrate;

e) Other (hemophilia treating physician to provide rationale if other than those previously listed).

As of late 2016, in the provinces and territories served by CBS, over 100 patients had made the switch to Eloctate or Alprolix.

Both products are distributed in Quebec as well; however, access criteria, developed by the *ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux*, are more restrictive. They include:

1. a half-life 50% shorter than normal;
2. serious problems with venous access;
3. other justifiable medical reasons.

A very very small number of Quebec patients has gained access to these products.

For more in-depth information on clotting factor concentrates available in Canada, see **www.hemophilia.ca/en/bleeding-disorders/clotting-factor-concentrates**.