

CHS asks members of the bleeding disorder community for help in getting access to Hemlibra[®] (emicizumab) for patients with FVIII inhibitors

ISSUE

Based on research and real-world evidence, Hemlibra is a life-changing therapy for patients with hemophilia A and FVIII inhibitors. It is approved by Health Canada; however, the process to decide on access through Canadian Blood Services (CBS) has been delayed and there is little hope for a positive result before spring 2019. This review process also involves the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH), which conducts the health technology assessment (cost vs. benefit). The final decision is made by the Provincial/Territorial Blood Liaison Committee on behalf of the Provincial/Territorial Ministers of Health (except Quebec).

REQUEST

The CHS is asking that members support those people with hemophilia A and inhibitors by writing to their Minister of Health and local Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) asking that Hemlibra be available by the end of 2018. A list of the Ministers of Health and their contact information can be found at the end of this document.

KEY MESSAGES

Factor VIII inhibitors, which affect approximately 70 to 80 people in those parts of the country served by CBS, are a catastrophic complication of hemophilia A. Current treatments with bypassing agents are only marginally effective, are a huge burden for patient and caregiver, and are very costly for the health system.

Hemlibra was licensed by Health Canada for patients with hemophilia A and FVIII inhibitors in early August 2018.

Hemlibra has been routinely available for these patients in the U.S. and in many parts of Europe for many months.

Clinical trials and real-world evidence with hundreds of patients show Hemlibra to be a life-changing therapy. It dramatically reduces bleeding episodes.

Hemlibra represents a win/win/win alternative to the current standard of care: vastly improved health outcomes, greatly enhanced quality-of-life and significant budget savings for the health system.

A rigorous economic analysis produced by the CHS estimates at least 33% lower costs for Hemlibra compared to the current standard of care. This means annual savings of \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000 in drug costs alone in the provinces and territories served by CBS.

Every month of delay in access puts patients' lives and limbs at greater risk and costs the health system one to two million dollars in foregone savings.

Patients with hemophilia A and inhibitors should not have to endure long administrative delay when there is a clearly superior therapy.

Given the delay in the review, the Minister of Health should intervene so that Hemlibra is immediately added to the CBS formulary for this small patient group. Patients should have access to this life-changing therapy before the end of 2018.

NOTE: For the moment, the review process for Quebec appears to be shorter and access is forecast to be earlier. We do not recommend intervening with the Quebec Minister of Health at this time.

For more information, please contact the CHS national office:

1-800-668-2686

chs@hemophilia.ca

MINISTERS OF HEALTH - updated October 2019

Alberta

Hon. Tyler Shandro

Minister of Health

health.minister@gov.ab.ca

Members of Executive Council

Executive Branch

423 Legislature Building

10800 - 97 Avenue

Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

British Columbia

Hon. Adrian Dix

Minister of Health

HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

PO Box 9050

Stn Prov Govt

Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Manitoba

Hon. Cameron Friesen

Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living

minhsal@leg.gov.mb.ca

Room 302 Legislative Building

450 Broadway

Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

New Brunswick

Hon. Hugh J.A. Flemming
Minister of Health
Hugh.Flemming@gnb.ca
Departmental Building, West Block
PO Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1

Newfoundland and Labrador

Hon. Dr. John Haggie
Minister of Health and Community Services
hcsminister@gov.nl.ca
PO Box 8700
1st Floor, West Block
Confederation Building
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Northwest Territories

Hon. Glen Abernethy
Minister of Health and Social Services
glen_abernethy@gov.nt.ca
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Nova Scotia

Hon. Randy Delorey
Minister of Health and Wellness
Health.Minister@novascotia.ca
Department of Health and Wellness
Barrington Tower
1894 Barrington Street
PO Box 488
Halifax, NS B3J 2R8

Nunavut

Hon. George Hickey
Minister of Health
ghickey@gov.nu.ca
Department of Health
Government of Nunavut
PO Box 1000, Station 1000
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

Ontario

Hon. Christine Elliott
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
christine.elliott@pc.ola.org
Hepburn Block, 10th Floor
80 Grosvenor St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

Prince Edward Island

Hon. James Aylward
Minister of Health and Wellness
MinisterHW@gov.pe.ca
PO Box 2000
4th Floor North
105 Rochford St.
Charlottetown, PEI C1A 7N8

Saskatchewan

Hon. Jim Reiter
Minister of Health
he.minister@gov.sk.ca
Room 204, Legislative Building
2405 Legislative Drive
Regina, SK S4S 0B3

Yukon

Hon. Pauline Frost
Minister of Health and Social Services
pauline.frost@gov.yk.ca
Yukon Legislative Assembly
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6