

CASE-BY-CASE REVIEW PROGRAM GENERAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the Case-by-Case Review Program (CBCRP)?

The Case-by-Case Review Program (CBCRP) considers funding requests for cancer drugs for individual cancer patients. The patient must have a rare clinical circumstance which is immediately life-threatening and requires treatment with an unfunded drug because there is no other satisfactory and funded treatment.

For the purpose of this program, an “immediately life-threatening, condition” is defined as a condition that will result in a loss of life, within a **matter of months**.

2. Who is eligible for CBCRP funding?

This program is intended for cancer patients who have a rare clinical circumstance that is immediately life threatening (i.e., death is likely within a matter of months) and who require treatment with an unfunded drug, because there is no other satisfactory and funded treatment.

In order to receive drug coverage under CBCRP, patients must be residents of Ontario and have a valid Ontario Health Card. For drugs that will be obtained from retail pharmacies, patients need to be eligible for benefits under the [Ontario Drug Benefit Program](#) and/or the [Trillium Drug Program](#).

3. Which drugs are eligible for CBCRP funding?

CBCRP makes patient-specific rather than drug-specific funding decisions. Any cancer drug currently not publicly funded in Ontario has the potential to be funded under this program provided that the patient case meets all the eligibility criteria for this program (see [Question 5](#)).

Patients who are seeking drug coverage for a cancer medication should speak with their physicians to determine if their circumstances would make them eligible under this program.

4. How do you apply for funding through this program?

The patient’s oncologist must complete and submit the CBCRP request form.

5. What criteria must be met for a patient to be eligible for treatment under this program?

A patient may be eligible for treatment under CBCRP funding, if his/her case meets all of the following criteria:

- The drug is intended to treat an existing cancer
- The patient has a rare clinical circumstance that is immediately life threatening (i.e., death is likely to occur within months)
- There is no other comparable clinical alternative
- There are no other funding options (e.g., [Ontario Drug Benefit](#) , [New Drug Funding Program](#) , [Exceptional Access Program](#))
- The patient cannot enroll in a clinical trial
- Evidence primarily shows that the drug will prolong survival
- Treatment may avoid or defer other health-care costs

The CBCRP is not intended to provide provisional funding of a regimen in advance of a formal evaluation through the regular review mechanism.

Talk to your physician to determine whether your case would be eligible for cancer drug funding under this program.

6. How are drugs approved for CBCRP funding?

CCO assesses each request to determine whether the case fulfills all the eligibility criteria (see [Question 5](#)) and makes a funding recommendation to the Executive Officer (EO) of Ontario Public Drug Programs. If necessary, CCO obtains independent opinions from at least two (2) experts (physicians who specialize in treating cancer) to inform their assessment. For all requests, the EO will evaluate CCO's recommendation and make the final decision on whether a drug should be funded under this program.

7. How long does it take to get a decision on a request for funding?

Upon receipt of a completed request, CBCRP will aim to provide a funding decision within two weeks.

8. Once a drug has been approved, how do I obtain the drug and get reimbursed?

The requesting physician will get an approval letter and will notify their patient. For a patient being treated with a drug that will be administered in a hospital, the hospital coordinates payment directly with CCO and is reimbursed for the cost of the drug.

Cancer drugs patients get at a retail pharmacy (e.g., oral medication such as tablets and capsules) are funded by the [Ontario Drug Benefit Program](#) (ODB) and the [Trillium Drug Program](#). Patients should obtain a copy of the approval letter from their physician and give it to their pharmacist when they get their prescription filled.

For patients who do not already have ODB coverage, it is highly recommended that they apply to the Trillium Drug Program to secure coverage before their treating oncologist submits a request to the CBCRP.

9. If a request is rejected, what are the options?

The patient's oncologist has 30 days to respond to a rejection.

- i. If the patient's oncologist has additional information that addresses the reasons for rejection then he/she can file a **Resubmission**.
- ii. If the patient's oncologist has no new information that addresses the reason for rejection, but believes the policy has been improperly applied, then he/she can file an **Appeal**. (Refer to the [CBCRP Appeals Policy](#) for details.)

More Information

For more information about the Case-By-Case Review Program and how it may help you or someone you know specifically, contact your physician.

For general information about the Case-by-Case Review Program, contact publicaffairs@cancercare.on.ca.