

## Ontario Public Drug Programs

# Notice from the Executive Officer: Funding of Grastofil (filgrastim) under the Ontario Drug Benefit program

December 21, 2016

Effective **December 22, 2016**, Grastofil (filgrastim) will be funded under the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program for eligible ODB recipients to prevent and treat neutropenia associated with chemotherapy. The following strengths and Drug Identification Numbers (DINs) will be added to the Formulary:

- Grastofil (filgrastim) 300 mcg/0.5mL pre-filled syringe (DIN: 02454548)
- Grastofil (filgrastim) 480 mcg/0.8mL pre-filled syringe (DIN: 02441489)

Grastofil (filgrastim) is a subsequent entry biologic (SEB) to Neupogen (filgrastim) and was approved by Health Canada in December 2015. Grastofil (filgrastim) will be listed on the ODB Formulary/Comparative Drug Index (Formulary) as a General Benefit (GB).

SEBs are biologics that are similar to, and would enter the market after the patent for an innovator biologic has expired. They are similar to generic drugs and are considered safe and effective, undergoing the same regulatory review as innovator biologics through Health Canada. SEBs present an important opportunity to achieve better value for money for biologic drugs and will help to support long-term sustainability and accessibility of Ontario's public drug programs.

Prescribers are encouraged to consider Grastofil (filgrastim) for new starts of a filgrastim regimen and a decision to begin treatment with Grastofil (filgrastim) should continue to be aligned with recognized clinical guidance, including but not limited to that released by Cancer Care Ontario at: <https://www.cancercare.on.ca/common/pages/UserFile.aspx?fileId=352101>

Neupogen (filgrastim) will continue to be funded, at this time, for those patients that meet the LU criteria.

To further inform healthcare providers and patients, a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document has been developed for reference purposes.

If you require further clarification or have questions regarding this matter, please send your question(s) to [PublicDrugPrgrms.moh@ontario.ca](mailto:PublicDrugPrgrms.moh@ontario.ca) or call:

**For pharmacies:**

Please call ODB Pharmacy Help Desk at: 1-800-668-6641

**For all other Health Care Providers and the Public:**

Please call ServiceOntario, Infoline at 1-866-532-3161 TTY 1-800-387-5559. In Toronto, TTY 416-327-4282