

## Notice from the Executive Officer: Funding of filgrastim under the Ontario Drug Benefit Program

August 1, 2017

Grastofil (filgrastim) was approved by Health Canada as a subsequent entry biologic (SEB) to Neupogen (filgrastim). SEBs have similar efficacy and safety as originator biologics and present an opportunity to achieve better value for money for biologic drugs that will help to support long-term sustainability and accessibility of Ontario's public drug programs.

Effective with the August 2017 formulary update, changes to funding of filgrastim on the Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program will be as follows:

For Grastofil (filgrastim):

- Grastofil will continue to be listed on the ODB Formulary/Comparative Drug Index (Formulary) as a General Benefit.

For Neupogen (filgrastim):

- Exceptional Access Program (EAP) requests for Neupogen (filgrastim) will no longer be accepted for any indication.
- Patients who have an existing EAP approval for Neupogen can continue to receive Neupogen for the duration of the EAP approval period.
- Neupogen Limited Use (LU) Code 446 will be deactivated.
- Neupogen will be listed on the Formulary as a LU benefit for the following indications:
  - LU Code 447 (change in criteria): Pre-Stem Cell Transplant Mobilization - For peripheral blood progenitor cell collection for peripheral stem cell transplant as treatment for malignant disease. Approval for Neupogen 300 mcg and 480 mcg vial format only.
  - LU Code 500: For pediatric patients (less than 18 years of age) who are unable to achieve the appropriate dose of granulocyte colony-stimulating factor with the

formulary listed formats of pre-filled syringes. Approval for Neupogen 300mcg vial format only.

- LU Code 501: For patients who are unable to use available formats of Grastofil due to a documented latex allergy. Approval for Neupogen 300 mcg and 480 mcg vial format only.

Details of the LU criteria will be also be posted in the August 2017 Formulary update which can be found on the ministry's website at:

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/edition\\_42.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/edition_42.aspx)

To further inform healthcare providers and patients, we have also included a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document for reference purposes.

**Additional information:**

**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.