



# pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review Patient Advocacy Group Feedback on a pCODR Expert Review Committee Initial Recommendation

December 22, 2014

# 1 Feedback on pERC Initial Recommendation

Name of the drug indication(s): Ipilimumab(Yervoy) for First Line

Name of registered patient advocacy Melanoma Network of Canada\_\_\_\_\_

*\*pCODR may contact this person if comments require clarification. Contact information will not be included in any public posting of this document by pCODR.*

## 1.1 Comments on the Initial Recommendation

a) Please indicate if the patient advocacy group agrees or disagrees with the initial recommendation:

X agrees  agrees in part  disagree

*Please explain why the patient advocacy group agrees, agrees in part or disagrees with the initial recommendation.*

We are pleased with the recommendation in several areas. Firstly, it is time that melanoma patients have access to a first line therapy that actually has proven beneficial impact on overall survival (OS) rates. 20% OS impact, while statistically relevant, is still not good enough for patients. You can imagine that as patients who are coping with this disease, we are breathing a sigh of relief that there is hope with this therapy and others that have recently been approved.

However, our hope continues that further studies on the combinations of immunotherapies and targeted therapies will significantly improve that 20% OS rate, and lead to long term survival and significantly improved quality of life. There is a need to eliminate dacarbazine (DTIC) as a trial comparator in the future, to ethically and morally provide patients with the best possible chances of a positive outcome from treatment.

We agree with pERC as well on the recommendation that further studies are needed to determine with greater accuracy the appropriate dosing of Yervoy at 3 mg/kg or 10 mg/kg. Ultimately, patients and physicians want the best outcome possible and not to waste precious time, energy and resources when time is of the essence in treatment. With different therapies and combinations of same coming in the next few years, it will be critically important to clarify standards of treatment to provide physicians with the optimal tools for patient health.

MNC is also pleased to see that pERC recommended that Yervoy be administered at centers where there is a melanoma specialist. This remains a therapy that has significant side effects in treatment, and patients must be monitored closely. However, as patients our concern would be that centers without a melanoma specialist may be tempted to rely on outdated and ineffective therapies such as DTIC. We hope that all patients will be referred to centers of excellence for treatment with this therapy, unless a patient elects not to receive this treatment.

We commend pERC for a thorough and rigorous review.

- b) Notwithstanding the feedback provided in part a) above, please indicate if the patient advocacy group would support this initial recommendation proceeding to final pERC recommendation ("early conversion"), which would occur within 2(two) business days of the end of the consultation period.

Support conversion to final recommendation. Recommendation does not require reconsideration by pERC.

Do not support conversion to final recommendation. Recommendation should be reconsidered by pERC.

- c) Please provide feedback on the initial recommendation. Is the initial recommendation or are the components of the recommendation (e.g., clinical and economic evidence) clearly worded? Is the intent clear? Are the reasons clear?

Page Number	Section Title	Paragraph, Line Number	Comments and Suggested Changes to Improve Clarity

## 1.2 Comments Related to Patient Advocacy Group Input

Please provide feedback on any issues not adequately addressed in the initial recommendation based on patient advocacy group input provided at the outset of the review on outcomes or issues important to patients that were identified in the submitted patient input. Please note that new evidence will be not considered during this part of the review process, however, it may be eligible for a Resubmission. If you are unclear as to whether the information you are providing is eligible for a Resubmission, please contact the pCODR Secretariat.

Examples of issues to consider include: what are the impacts of the condition on patients' daily living? Are the needs of patients being met by existing therapies? Are there unmet needs? Will the agents included in this recommendation affect the lives of patients? Do they have any disadvantages? Stakeholders may also consider other factors not listed here.

Page Number	Section Title	Paragraph, Line Number	Comments related to initial patient advocacy group input

## 1.3 Additional Comments About the Initial Recommendation Document

Please provide any additional comments:

Page Number	Section Title	Paragraph, Line Number	Additional Comments

## About Completing This Template

pCODR invites those registered patient advocacy groups that provided input on the drug under review prior to deliberation by the pCODR Expert Review Committee (pERC), to also provide feedback and comments on the initial recommendation made by pERC. (See [www.pcodr.ca](http://www.pcodr.ca) for information regarding review status and feedback deadlines.)

As part of the pCODR review process, the pCODR Expert Review Committee makes an initial recommendation based on its review of the clinical, economic and patient evidence for a drug. (See [www.pcodr.ca](http://www.pcodr.ca) for a description of the pCODR process.) The initial recommendation is then posted for feedback and comments from various stakeholders. The pCODR Expert Review Committee welcomes comments and feedback that will help the members understand why the patient advocacy groups agree or disagree with the initial recommendation. In addition, the members of pERC would like to know if there is any lack of clarity in the document and if so, what could be done to improve the clarity of the information in the initial recommendation. Other comments are welcome as well.

All stakeholders have 10 (ten) business days within which to provide their feedback on the initial recommendation and rationale. If all invited stakeholders, including registered patient advocacy groups, agree with the recommended clinical population described in the initial recommendation, it will proceed to a final pERC recommendation by 2 (two) business days after the end of the consultation (feedback) period. This is called an “early conversion” of an initial recommendation to a final recommendation.

If any one of the invited stakeholders does not support the initial recommendation proceeding to final pERC recommendation, pERC will review all feedback and comments received at the next possible pERC meeting. Based on the feedback received, pERC will consider revising the recommendation document as appropriate. It should be noted that the initial recommendation and rationale for it may or may not change following consultation with stakeholders.

The final pERC recommendation will be made available to the participating provincial and territorial ministries of health and cancer agencies for their use in guiding their funding decisions and will also be made publicly available once it has been finalized.

## Instructions for Providing Feedback

- a) Only registered patient advocacy groups that provided input at the beginning of the review of the drug can provide feedback on the initial recommendation.
  - Please note that only one submission per patient advocacy group is permitted. This applies to those groups with both national and provincial / territorial offices; only one submission for the entire patient advocacy group will be accepted. If more than one submission is made, only the first submission will be considered.
  - Individual patients should contact a patient advocacy group that is representative of their condition to have their input added to that of the group. If there is no patient advocacy group for the particular tumour, patients should contact pCODR for direction at [info@pcodr.ca](mailto:info@pcodr.ca).

- b) Feedback or comments must be based on the evidence that was considered by pERC in making the initial recommendation. No new evidence will be considered during this part of the review process; however, it may be eligible for a Resubmission.
- c) The template for providing *pCODR Patient Advocacy Group Feedback on a pERC Initial Recommendation* can be downloaded from the pCODR website. (See [www.pcodr.ca](http://www.pcodr.ca) for a description of the pCODR process and supporting materials and templates.)
- d) At this time, the template must be completed in English. Patient advocacy groups should complete those sections of the template where they have substantive comments and should not feel obligated to complete every section, if that section does not apply to their group. Similarly, groups should not feel restricted by the space allotted on the form and can expand the tables in the template as required.
- e) Feedback on the initial pERC recommendations **should not exceed three (3) pages in length**, using a minimum 11 point font on 8 ½" by 11" paper. If comments submitted exceed three pages, only the first three pages of feedback will be forwarded to the pERC.
- f) Feedback should be presented clearly and succinctly in point form, whenever possible. The issue(s) should be clearly stated and specific reference must be made to the section of the recommendation document under discussion (i.e., page number, section title, and paragraph). Opinions from experts and testimonials should not be provided. Comments should be restricted to the content of the initial recommendation.
- g) References to support comments may be provided separately; however, these cannot be new references. New evidence is not considered during this part of the review process, however, it may be eligible for a Resubmission. If you are unclear as to whether the information you are considering to provide is eligible for a Resubmission, please contact the pCODR Secretariat.
- h) The comments must be submitted via a Microsoft Word (not PDF) document by logging into [www.pcodr.ca](http://www.pcodr.ca) and selecting "Submit Feedback" by the posted deadline date.
- i) Patient advocacy group feedback must be submitted to pCODR by 5 P.M. Eastern Time on the day of the posted deadline.
- j) If you have any questions about the feedback process, please e-mail [info@pocr.ca](mailto:info@pocr.ca). For more information regarding patient input into the pCODR drug review process, see the *pCODR Patient Engagement Guide*. Should you have any questions about completing this form, please email [info@pcodr.ca](mailto:info@pcodr.ca)

*Note: Submitted feedback is publicly posted and also may be used in other documents available to the public. The confidentiality of any submitted information at this stage of the review cannot be guaranteed.*