

Department of Health- Breast Cancer Medicines Access Program

Breast Cancer Medicines Access Program

Breast cancer continues to be the leading cause of cancer deaths for women in the country (Philippine Cancer Facts and Estimates). Moreover, same estimates revealed that there is an average of 2,016 new breast cancer cases every year (1998-2002) registered in Metro Manila alone. About 40% of these women do not survive from the dreaded disease. With the increasing poverty level in the Philippines, the great financial burden for the treatment and management of the disease remains to be the reason for women to delay seeking care and even abandoning preventive and treatment procedures.

1. What is DOH – BCMAP?

Breast Cancer Medicines Access Program (BCMAP) provides chemotherapy to early stage breast cancer (Stage I-III B) as well as standard diagnostic procedure such as ER/PR testing through National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTi) for the eligible patients at no cost to them.

DOH partnered with Philippine Cancer Society Inc. (PCSI) to address other sources of barriers to cancer and patients compliance through their Patient Navigation Program (PNP). PCSI employed two (2) Patient Navigators/ Registered Nurses per access site that are task to assist the patients and their families to help overcome health care system barriers and facilitate timely access to quality medical and psychosocial care from pre-diagnosis through all phases of the cancer experience.

2. Who can avail of this Program?

- Filipino
- Histologically confirmed primary breast carcinoma
- Stage I-III B breast cancer
- Must have undergone definitive surgery for primary disease within the past 15 weeks
- Must not be a recurrence of past breast cancer
- No previous chemotherapy for breast cancer or other malignancies
- Currently receiving or planning to receive standard adjuvant systemic therapy that is included in the DOH access program

DOH-BCMAP

- Radiotherapy to the breast, chest wall, or lymph node group allowed at the discretion of the treating physician, and given after completion of adjuvant chemotherapy.
- Not pregnant
- If breast feeding, must stop breastfeeding and not to practice breastfeeding thereafter.
- Adequate liver, renal, cardiovascular organ function (clinically normal liver, renal, and cardiovascular function; SGOT <1.5x normal upper limit; alkaline phosphatase <1.5 NUL; normal range creatinine; unremarkable liver ultrasound, ECG and chest x-ray)
- No other medical condition against which chemotherapy is contraindicated

3. Where can we access medicines for this program?

BCMAP Access sites:

1. Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center (ARMMC)
2. Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH)
3. Davao Regional Hospital (DRH)
4. East Avenue Medical Center EAMC)
5. Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center (JRMCC)
6. Philippine General Hospital (PGH)
7. Rizal Medical Center (RMC)

4. What are the BCMAP medicines included in the Program?

1. Cyclophosphamide 500 mg vial
2. Doxorubicin hydrochloride 50 mg powder vial
3. Fluorouracil 50 mg/mL, 10 mL vial
4. Tamoxifen citrate 20 mg tablet
5. Docetaxel 80 mg vial
6. Docetaxel 20 mg vial
7. Filgrastim 300 micrograms/mL, vial (IV,SC)
8. Ondansetron 8 mg vial

5. How many beneficiaries are now enrolled in the Program?

As of March 2015, a total of 2,912 breast cancer patients were served by the Program.

*For further inquiries,
please contact*
Pharmaceutical Division
(Office for Health Regulations):
651-7800 loc. 2557/2558

