



**Canadian  
Blood  
Services**

BLOOD  
PLASMA  
STEM CELLS  
ORGANS  
& TISSUES

1800 Alta Vista Drive  
Ottawa ON  
K1G 4J5  
Canada

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**ACTION REQUIRED**

Cuvitru Supply

Customer Letter # 2019-09

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2019-05-09

The attached customer letter from Takeda (formerly Shire) provides important information related to Cuvitru®, subcutaneous immune globulin (SCIg), notably regarding temporary supply challenges that have emerged for this product.

Canadian Blood Services acknowledges the efforts of hospitals, clinics, prescribers, and patients in successfully transitioning approximately 2100 patients to Cuvitru® since April 2018. This represents 147% of patients previously on alternative subcutaneous immune globulin product before Canadian Blood Services started carrying Cuvitru® on our formulary. In addition to these patients previously treated with subcutaneous Ig products, over the last several months the number of new patients started on subcutaneous immune globulin has grown rapidly, greatly exceeding demand forecasts. We understand that if the growth in demand continues at the current rate, it will strain the available supply for all patients.

To ensure access and continuity of supply for all patients currently receiving Cuvitru®, we encourage health care providers to prepare to take appropriate actions to reduce SCIg demand. A physician and patient working group will be meeting in the next few days to develop recommendations on how to address SCIg demand. Recommendations will be shared once developed. Canadian Blood Services has discussed this matter with the National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products and the National Emergency Blood Management Committee, which has issued an Amber Advisory, and requests your cooperation with the forthcoming recommendations from the working group when available.

As it takes several months to secure additional Cuvitru® volumes that are labeled for Canada, Takeda expects this situation will be resolved only in the second half of 2019.

Canadian Blood Services is committed to ensuring optimal provision of plasma derived products on its formulary, including subcutaneous immune globulin, at a predictable cost to funders. We are monitoring this situation and are in active discussions with all manufacturers to ensure a stable long-term supply of subcutaneous immune globulin.

Please share a copy of this customer letter with healthcare professionals, especially prescribers of subcutaneous immune globulin, at your hospital who might be interested in this information.

This customer letter can also be viewed at [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca) in the “Hospitals Services” section. If you have questions about this letter, or if you require it in an accessible format, please contact your local hospital liaison specialist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isra Levy', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Isra Levy, MB BCh, MSc, FRCPC  
Vice President, Medical Affairs and Innovation