Canadian Blood Services Recombinant Factor VIII and Recombinant Factor IX Contracts and Contract Awards

Canadian Blood Services is very pleased to announce the results of its recent Recombinant Factor VIII and IX tender, the benefits to be realized to the patient community, and that the safe and secure supply of both product categories that will be maintained. These changes once fully implemented will also generate significant savings for these products. Further information about the planned patient switches required to support our decisions are also provided.

The recommendations for the award, execution and delivery of two-year contracts (with renewal options) for Recombinant Factor VIII and Recombinant Factor IX products have been approved by Canadian Blood Services and its Board of Directors as follows:

a. To Pfizer: Approximately 40 million IUs annually of standard acting rFIX amounts for the “BeneFIX” product and approximately 95 million IUs annually of standard acting rFVIII for the “Xyntha” product.

b. To Octapharma: No more than approximately 5 million IUs annually of standard acting rFVIII for the “Nuwiq” product.

c. To Bayer: Continuation of existing rFVIII product amounts for the “Kogenate” and moving to “Kovaltry” products with a minimum total of 90 million IUs annually.

These recommendations coming out of the recent Canadian Blood Services Request for Proposals (RFP) for recombinant factor VIII and IX replacement therapy have resulted in the need to transition patients with factor VIII deficiency from Advate, which will no longer be available after the current inventory on hand is depleted. The majority of the Advate market share has been awarded to Xyntha, and the expectation is that Advate patients will be transitioned to Xyntha over the spring and summer months. A quantity of Nuwiq will be obtained as well, for patient benefit as this product shows potential benefits and lower inhibitor rates for previously untreated patients and other patients in the opinion of the treating team. Patients on Kogenate FS should not be required to switch recombinant molecules, although they will be transitioned to the new Bayer brand, Kovaltry, which is replacing Kogenate FS in the coming months.

Benefix will continue to be the principal recombinant factor IX product.

The extended half-life products, Eloctate for factor VIII and Alprolix for factor IX, were not specifically part of the RFP, but both are currently available for patients currently using standard half-life products.
who might benefit from transitioning to these products, with contracts that extend to March 31, 2017 (with renewal option).

The RFP selection committee was comprised of representatives of Canadian Blood Services, Association of Hemophilia Clinic Directors of Canada (AHCDC), Canadian Association of Nurses in Hemophilia Care (CANHC), and Canadian Hemophilia Society (CHS), and the input of the physicians, nurses, and patients was carefully considered during the evaluation process. The impact of transitioning was central to the discussions and the final recommendations. The recommendation of a major product change for almost half of the hemophilia A population took into account the safety, efficacy, and convenience of the products, as well as the potential for considerable cost savings for the Canadian health care system. The entire committee was supportive of the final outcome.

Logistical planning to support the national product transitions is currently underway at Canadian Blood Services, and will be discussed with the treatment centres prior to initiation. Cooperation between the vendors, Canadian Blood Services and the clinics will be paramount for a successful transition. It is anticipated that each clinic will need to determine how best to manage the transition within the context of its program and the resources available. The use of CBDR/MyCBDR or an equivalent home infusion reporting system during the transition period will be beneficial for both patient care and inventory management.

Any questions relating to the RFP itself should be directed to Canadian Blood Services Procurement department, Richard Lough, Manager Procurement at Richard.Lough@blood.ca. All other questions please contact Rick Trifunov (Rick.Trifunov@blood.ca) and/or Peter Saunders (Peter.Saunders@blood.ca).