

EVIDENCE BUILDING PROGRAM
HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the Evidence Building Program?

The Evidence Building Program (EBP) covers the costs of cancer drugs in situations where data is collected to answer an evidence gap, to evaluate clinical benefit, and to confirm overall value. The EBP complements and strengthens Ontario's New Drug Funding Program (NDFP) and the process by which drug-funding decisions are made in the province.

2. What is the purpose of the EBP?

The objective of the EBP is to develop and collect real-world data on cancer drugs where there is emerging or evolving evidence and a strong suggestion of clinical benefit, but the evidence is insufficient to support a permanent public-funding decision.

The EBP data will be given to the Executive Officer of Ontario Public Drug Programs, who will use it to make a final funding decision.

3. What are the EBP inclusion criteria?

The inclusion criteria will determine which drugs/indications will be considered under the EBP. Drugs that do not meet **all of the inclusion criteria** will not be considered for EBP funding.

- The drug must have been reviewed by the Committee to Evaluate Drugs, or its equivalent.
- The drug currently must be funded publicly and the indication for which funding is being sought is an extension/expansion/modification of the current funding criteria.
- There must be questions about a drug's clinical- or cost-effectiveness in a specific patient population (beyond the current reimbursement criteria) that can be resolved through the collection of real-world utilization data over the proposed study period.
 - *For example, if the issue is one of cost-effectiveness or budget impact that can be resolved through other mechanisms, such as a product listing agreement, the drug would not be considered under the EBP.*
- The collection and analysis of the real-world data are expected to be sufficient to inform a future funding decision.
- There are no studies underway that are expected to address the issue within the EBP funding period.
- The Disease Site Group supports inclusion of the drug in the EBP.
- Research ethics board approval is not required.

4. Does my patient have to pay anything to participate in the program?

No, however, the patient must be eligible for the NDFP. Under the EBP, the cost of the drug would be covered as long as your patient meets the eligibility criteria.

5. Is there a limited time for the drug to be funded under the EBP?

The duration of funding through EBP will depend on many factors, including how many patients are treated with the drug for this diagnosis and the time required to collect and analyze the real-world data.

6. Which drugs are currently covered by the EBP?

- **Herceptin:** when used in conjunction with chemotherapy, this drug is to treat breast tumours of less than or equal to one centimetre in women who are node negative and HER2 positive.
- **Eloxatin:** when used in combination with surgery for the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer for specific conditions.

CCO continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and provincial disease site groups to introduce other drugs into the EBP.

7. What type of information is required from physicians for the EBP?

Patient demographic, clinical, and provider and health-care facility information, as is required for any NDFP reimbursement.

This information is submitted to CCO, which administers the EBP, for the purposes of determining a patient's eligibility to have his/her cancer treatment funded. As is the case with all NDFP drugs, the eligibility criteria must be met, but this program also requires prior approval to participate (to get funding) and may require the submission of additional patient clinical information. Additionally, patient outcome data may be requested over the course of the patient's involvement with the EBP.

More Information

For more information about the Evidence Building Program, contact ebp@cancercare.on.ca.