Regimen Monograph

Regimen Name | Drug Regimen | Cycle Frequency | Premedication and Supportive Measures | Dose Modifications | Adverse Effects | Interactions | Drug Administration and Special Precautions | Recommended Clinical Monitoring | Administrative Information | References | Other Notes | Disclaimer

A - Regimen Name

RITU(DESENS) Regimen

Rituximab (Desensitization)

Disease Site

Hematologic
- Leukemia - Acute Lymphoblastic (ALL)
- Leukemia - Chronic Lymphocytic (CLL)
- Leukemia - Hairy Cell
- Lymphoma - Hodgkin
- Lymphoma - Non-Hodgkin's High Grade
- Lymphoma - Non-Hodgkin's Intermediate Grade
- Lymphoma - Non-Hodgkin's Low Grade

Intent

Curative
Palliative

Regimen Category

Evidence-informed :

Regimen is considered appropriate as part of the standard care of patients; meaningfully improves outcomes (survival, quality of life), tolerability or costs compared to alternatives (recommended by the Disease Site Team and national consensus body e.g. pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review, pCODR). Recommendation is based on an appropriately conducted phase III clinical trial relevant to the Canadian context OR (where phase III trials are not feasible) an appropriately sized phase II trial. Regimens where one or more drugs are not approved by Health Canada for any indication will be identified under Rationale and Use.

This **Regimen Abstract** is an **abbreviated** version of a Regimen Monograph and contains only top level information on usage, dosing, schedule, cycle length and special notes (if available). Information in regimen abstracts is accurate to the extent of the ST-QBP regimen master listings, and has not undergone the full review process of a regimen monograph. Full regimen monographs will be published for each ST-QBP regimen as they are developed.

Rationale and Uses	For the ambulatory administration of rituximab through a 12 to 16-step graduated rate infusion (as part of a desensitization protocol) in patients who have had a previous severe hypersensitivity reaction. Refer to NDFP criteria for funded indications.

back to top

B - Drug Regimen

trastuzumab

Administered through a 12 to 16-step graduated rate desensitization. Total dose to be administered corresponds to the rituximab-containing regimen the patient is being treated with.

ST-QBP funding is for outpatient administration only.

back to top

J - Administrative Information

Approximate Patient Visit	7 to 8 hours
Pharmacy Workload (average time per visit)	107.3 minutes
Nursing Workload (average time per visit)	480 minutes

back to top

K - References

Castells MC, Tennant NM, Sloane DE, et al. Hypersensitivity reactions to chemotherapy: outcomes and safety of rapid desensitization in 413 cases. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2008;122:574-80.

Castells M. Drug hypersensitivity and anaphylaxis in cancer and chronic inflammatory diseases: The role of desensitizations. Front Immunol 2017;8(Nov):1–11.

Management of cancer medication-related infusion reactions. Ontario Health (Cancer Care Ontario). Aug 2019.

July 2025 new ST-QBP regimen

back to top

M - Disclaimer

Regimen Abstracts

A Regimen Abstract is an abbreviated version of a Regimen Monograph and contains only top level information on usage, dosing, schedule, cycle length and special notes (if available). It is intended for healthcare providers and is to be used for informational purposes only. It is not intended to constitute or be a substitute for medical advice, and all uses of the Regimen Abstract are subject to clinical judgment. Such information is provided on an "as-is" basis, without any representation, warranty, or condition, whether express, or implied, statutory or otherwise, as to the information's quality, accuracy, currency, completeness, or reliability, and Cancer Care Ontario disclaims all liability for the use of this information, and for any claims, actions, demands or suits that arise from such use.

Information in regimen abstracts is accurate to the extent of the ST-QBP regimen master listings, and has not undergone the full review process of a regimen monograph. Full regimen monographs will be published for each ST-QBP regimen as they are developed.

Regimen Monographs

Refer to the New Drug Funding Program or Ontario Public Drug Programs websites for the most up-to-date public funding information.

The information set out in the drug monographs, regimen monographs, appendices and symptom management information (for health professionals) contained in the Drug Formulary (the "Formulary") is intended for healthcare providers and is to be used for informational purposes only. The information is not intended to cover all possible uses, directions, precautions, drug interactions or adverse effects of a particular drug, nor should it be construed to indicate that use of a particular drug is safe, appropriate or effective for a given condition. The information in the Formulary is not intended to constitute or be a substitute for medical advice and should not be relied upon in any such regard. All uses of the Formulary are subject to clinical judgment and actual prescribing patterns may not follow the information provided in the Formulary.

The format and content of the drug monographs, regimen monographs, appendices and symptom management information contained in the Formulary will change as they are reviewed and revised on a periodic basis. The date of last revision will be visible on each page of the monograph and regimen. Since standards of usage are constantly evolving, it is advised that the Formulary not be used as the sole source of information. It is strongly recommended that original references or product monograph be consulted prior to using a chemotherapy regimen for the first time.

Some Formulary documents, such as the medication information sheets, regimen information sheets and symptom management information (for patients), are intended for patients. Patients should always consult with their healthcare provider if they have questions regarding any information set out in the Formulary documents.

While care has been taken in the preparation of the information contained in the Formulary, such information is provided on an "as-is" basis, without any representation, warranty, or condition, whether express, or implied, statutory or otherwise, as to the information's quality, accuracy, currency, completeness, or reliability.

CCO and the Formulary's content providers shall have no liability, whether direct, indirect, consequential, contingent, special, or incidental, related to or arising from the information in the Formulary or its use thereof, whether based on breach of contract or tort (including negligence), and even if advised of the possibility thereof. Anyone using the information in the Formulary does so at his or her own risk, and by using such information, agrees to indemnify CCO and its content providers from any and all liability, loss, damages, costs and expenses (including legal fees and

expenses) arising from such person's use of the information in the Formulary.

back to top