



Interior Health



## **Recommendation Update: Use of Tocilizumab, Sarilumab and Baricitinib in Treatment of Hospitalized Covid + Patients When Supply of These Drugs is Limited.**

**Endorsed by:** CTRAWG 8Oct2021

### **Background:**

The supply of tocilizumab for treatment of hospitalized Covid+ patients is in very limited supply in Canada. Further, supply of an alternate therapy, sarilumab is also in very limited supply. Baricitinib, a newer treatment for the same patient population, is becoming available but will also have limited supply.

Products with high demand and limited supply will have periods of time when they are in supply and not in supply.

The recommendation has been analyzed through the *Ethical Framework for Allocating Scarce Drug Therapies During COVID-19*.<sup>1</sup> The recommendation promotes the timely allocation of the most effective and scientifically proven drug therapies to currently ill patients with the highest needs and the greatest likelihood of benefit.

The CTRAWG, reviewed the demand for these drugs in the BC hospital system against the available supply. They also considered the impact on many patient populations that could benefit from these drugs and hence, the CTRAWG makes the following recommendation.

**The Recommendation for BC Health Authorities:** Use Tocilizumab, Sarilumab and Baricitinib for Covid+ hospitalized patients, as currently approved for use in BC (Covid+ Patients), in the following priority sequence 1. Tocilizumab, 2. Sarilumab, 3. Baricitinib while supplies last. When the first agent is exhausted move to the next down this sequence. When supplies return, move back to the earlier product in the sequence.

The HA Pharmacies will ensure inventory is positioned across the Health Authorities in a fair and equitable manner such that, to the best of our ability, the HAs will move as a province across this sequence together.

Sincerely,

Richard Jones RPh, FACHE

Chair CTRAWG

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<sup>1</sup> Ethical Framework for Allocating Scarce Drug Therapies During COVID-19  
[http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/Drug\\_Scarcity\\_Framework.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/Drug_Scarcity_Framework.pdf)