

May 1, 2024

Update: Lomustine (CCNU) Discontinuation

On February 28, 2024, BTFC sent a letter of concern to The Honorable Mark Holland, Minister of Health on behalf of the neuro oncology community, including patients, physicians, and researchers, regarding the discontinuation of lomustine and the impact on patient care, access to treatment, and advancement of clinical research. In response to our concerns, BTFC was invited to take part in a meeting with Health Canada's Drug Shortages Unit to discuss our concerns. Representatives from Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada were joined by Canadian neuro-oncologists, Dr. Rebecca Harrison and Dr. Marshall Pitz, to meet with representatives from Health Canada on April 17th, 2024. Drs. Harrison and Pitz specifically emphasised the effectiveness of this treatment option and the importance of securing a new supply of lomustine.

Health Canada has acknowledged that lomustine is a critical drug. They advised that they are actively working with manufacturers and stakeholders to monitor the remaining supply of lomustine and to identify strategies to address access to the drug after the March 31, 2025 discontinuation date. Health Canada is working with stakeholders such as the Canadian Association of Provincial Cancer Agencies (CAPCA) to understand the full scope of the impact.

It was confirmed that Health Canada is actively looking to pursue new market entrants who could supply lomustine to Canadian patients. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is interested in communicating this opportunity with the wider brain tumour community in hopes that additional suppliers may demonstrate their interest and reach out to Health Canada. Health Canada is also actively pursuing the exceptional importation of foreign-authorized lomustine as an interim measure to allow for uninterrupted access to the drug.

For more information, or to learn more about our ongoing advocacy efforts, please contact:
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