

August 8, 2024

On July 23, Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's CEO and staff met with representatives from Bristol Myers-Squibb (BMS) to discuss the pending discontinuation of lomustine.

We were informed that BMS would be sending a letter to health care professionals across Canada to re-inform them of the discontinuation date. The letter was distributed on July 29th and is included in the document below.

BTFC has also learned that Health Canada has escalated the discontinuation by including lomustine on the Tier 3 Drug Shortages List. To view the list, [click here](#).

BTFC continues to prioritize advocating for access to brain tumour drugs and treatment, keeping the brain tumour community informed and engaged.

If you have any questions or concerns about this issue or Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's advocacy efforts, please contact:

Sarah Rogers
Advocacy and Information Specialist
srogers@braintumour.ca

RE: Discontinuation of the Sale and Distribution of CeeNU (lomustine) in May/June 2025

Dear Healthcare Professional,

Bristol Myers Squibb would like to remind you that the sale and distribution of CeeNU (lomustine) will be discontinued in Canada and existing product lots will expire in May 2025 (10 mg capsules) & June 2025 (40 mg capsules). This is a worldwide discontinuation and includes all dose strengths. The decision to discontinue CeeNU is voluntary and not related to any quality, safety or efficacy issues regarding the product.

BMS has been in touch with Health Canada to inform them of our plans and timelines relating to the discontinuation of CeeNU.

Prior to making this global decision, BMS searched for companies interested in acquiring the medicine for international markets, without success. BMS Canada was able to delay the discontinuation of lomustine in Canada by two years by acquiring additional stock from the final manufactured stock from other BMS affiliates worldwide. Over the past 3 years, BMS Canada actively sought technology transfer and/or other options for CeeNU in Canada, unfortunately without success.

Indication:

CeeNU (lomustine-CCNU) is indicated as palliative therapy in addition to surgery and radiotherapy or in combination therapy with other chemotherapeutic agents in the following:

- Brain tumours - both primary and metastatic, in patients who have already received appropriate surgical and/or radiotherapeutic procedures.
- Hodgkin's Disease - as a secondary therapy, alone or in combination with other active drugs.
- Other Tumours - CeeNU has been used in combination with other therapeutic agents in lung cancer (squamous cell, anaplastic large cell, and adenocarcinoma), malignant melanoma and breast cancer (advanced disease) only after other conventional methods have failed.

If you have questions or require additional information regarding the discontinuation of CeeNU, please contact Bristol Myers Squibb Canada at 1-800-267-0005 or via e-mail at otc.canada@bms.com.

For medical information requests, please contact our Medical Information Services at 1-866-463-6267 or at medical.canada@bms.com.

Sincerely,

Franck Chenu

Franck Chenu, PharmD,
PhD Country Medical Director
BMS Canada