

Rick
777-7593

**Questions Related to Herceptin
October 28, 2005**

- Q. How long has the NCTRF been prescribing Herceptin?
- A. NCTRF has been prescribing Herceptin since 1999 for metastatic or late stage breast cancer. It has not been prescribed for adjuvant or early stage breast cancer at this time.
- Q. Has CCOHTA reviewed this drug or plan to review it?
- A. CCOHTA will not review this drug until it is approved by Health Canada and then only at Health Canada's request. A notice of compliance has been filed with Health Canada and it may be some months before a decision is made.
- Q. Are we still potentially looking for savings in NLPDP this year?
- A. The NLPDP is projecting about \$3 or \$4 million savings which the Department plans to use against the potential cost overrun on the Physician Services budget.
- Q. How is this drug administered?
- A. This drug is administered in a hospital setting. Hence, it would be covered under the Canada Health Act.
- Q. Will this added cost be added to all formularies in the province or just the Provincial Systemic Therapy Budget?
- A. Herceptin will be added to the provincial systemic therapy formulary. The oncologists will make the decisions on the drug administration for patients across the province but the drug will be administered at the satellite cancer clinics.
- Q. Why is NB not covering this drug and when did other jurisdictions start to cover it? Is it through their drug program or their hospitals?
- A. Dr. Kara Laing advised us today that NB is also funding Herceptin. NL is the only province not doing so. Other provinces started to provide Herceptin in July 2005.
- Q. If we fund Herceptin what other drugs will get deferred?
- A.
- Q. Why did the NCTRF not request funding for Herceptin as part of their budget submission in 2005/06?
- A. The approved systemic therapy budget is \$6.3M. NCTRF requested an additional \$6.2M in 2005/06 to cover new systemic therapies but this amount did not include Herceptin. It is likely that Herceptin was not brought forward in the 2005/06

budget request as the clinical trials were ongoing and no conclusions had been drawn on the clinical benefits.

Q. What is the rate of cure for early stage breast cancer patients receiving Herceptin?

A. There is an increased rate of cure of 50-60% for patients receiving Herceptin.