

March 15, 2020

## **COVID-19 IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS** **REGARDING CANCER PATIENTS**

Please post this information in all Emergency Departments, Community Cancer Program (CCP) sites, and Urgent Care facilities in all Regional Health Authorities in Manitoba.

### Background information:

- Cancer patients may be more susceptible to COVID-19 due to inherent compromise of the immune system, including natural physiological and anatomic barriers;
- Cancer patients who acquire COVID-19 may be more susceptible to complications of their cancer treatment (i.e. febrile neutropenia, mucositis);
- The prognosis for cancer patients who acquire COVID-19 may be worse than in those who don't have cancer;
- **It is important to remember that cancer patients may have symptoms or complications due to cancer treatment that may either resemble or mask symptoms of COVID-19.**

### Instructions for Health Care Providers:

**For cancer patients who are on ACTIVE TREATMENT and/or ACTIVE FOLLOW-UP who are suspected of, being screened for, presumptively diagnosed with or confirmed with COVID-19:**

Please contact the patient's Primary Oncologist at CancerCare Manitoba who will provide further direction on managing these patients including decisions on whether or not to continue current treatment.

### Contact information:

Daytime hours, Monday to Friday

CCMB direct or through HSC Paging at 204-787-2071

After Hours and Weekends

HSC Paging at 204-787-2071 –  
Ask for the medical oncologist/hematologist/radiation  
oncologist/pediatric oncologist on call

If you are not able to reach anyone in a timely fashion, please page CCMB's Chief Medical Officer through HSC Paging.

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President and CEO, CancerCare Manitoba

