

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada releases online “Road Map” to demonstrate inconsistencies in chemotherapy drug access and help patients navigate the system

London, ON – March 7, 2019 - Today Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada released a new online tool to help those with brain tumours understand how to access their treatment in their home province or territory. The “[Road Map](#)” highlights the inconsistency in cancer treatment access across Canada and the unseen measures taken by health professionals to ensure patients get the treatment they need.

As Canada’s only national organization supporting patients and families affected by brain tumours, Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is taking steps to ensure patients have consistent access to the therapies that improve their survival and their quality of life. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada was pleased to see the recommendations in the [Interim Report by the Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare](#) that called for a national formulary and reduced barriers to drug access. The hope is that the “Road Map” can help contribute to the ongoing planning of the Pharmacare blueprint and target specific areas for improvement.

The map illustrates a patient’s access to a standard chemotherapy treatment – temozolomide. This drug is the internationally accepted, standard chemotherapy treatment for the most common type of brain cancer. It has been approved for sale in Canada for more than a decade and is listed on every provincial/territorial drug plan formulary. It is reasonably affordable as it has been in generic production for several years. It is the “go to” treatment for most newly diagnosed glioblastoma patients. Yet, it is not easily accessible to all.

Each province/territory covers temozolomide differently: the amount covered, the way it is accessed, and the criteria for coverage vary from coast to coast. The drug needs to be given along with radiation therapy (an insured service) so some provinces have taken additional steps to find ways to ensure patients receive the drug in a timely manner. But much of this information is unknown to the patient and isn’t publicly accessible. Patients rely on their health care team to guide them.



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The information in the road map was collected from government resources and an informal survey of front-line oncology health professionals on the methods they used to access temozolomide. Traffic lights were used to indicate levels of access difficulty (red, yellow, green) in each province/territory. By clicking on each province or territory, a patient can find out more information on how to access the drug, the potential access barriers they might encounter, and who to go to for help.

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About Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada: Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is the only national charity offering information and support to patients affected by any kind of brain tumour – be it cancerous, non-malignant or metastases. The organization funds ground-breaking research across North America and, since 1982, has dedicated over \$6.9 million to finding a cure and improving treatment for brain tumour survivors. Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is funded solely through generous contributions from individuals, corporations, organizations, employee groups and special events. Learn more at Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada's website: www.BrainTumour.ca.

For more information on the tool: <https://www.braintumour.ca/13431/tmz-map>

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