


Survey: Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Rare Disease Patients in Canada

Question		 Boehringer Ingelheim
1.	<p>At this time, to the best of your knowledge, what is the most likely impact of COVID-19 on (adequate) supply of your company's drugs to Canadian patients? If the answer varies by drug, please provide either specific drug information or respond in general across all drugs.</p>	<p>From today's perspective, we have no immediate supply chain issues and do not foresee such problems in the short term due to COVID-19 outbreak. Boehringer Ingelheim continues to monitor the situation very closely. The health and well-being of our patients are at the core of everything we do. We consider the continuous availability of medicinal products and the supply to our patients and customers of utmost priority to us.</p>
2.	<p>If interruption or shortage in drug supply were anticipated or took place, where could Canadian patients find information about the situation and any plans for addressing or mitigating the impact? Is there a website, information line, or contact person?</p>	<p>Any pharmaceutical company anticipating delays in supplying the Canadian market with an approved medicine to meet expected patient demand (i.e. normal prescription volumes) is required, under the Food and Drug Regulations, to report this to Health Canada and it will be posted on the Canadian Drug Shortage website, drugshortages.ca.</p>
3.	<p>This question addresses any clinical trials that your company has at this time that includes Canadian sites or Canadian patients in other countries. At this time, to the best of your knowledge, have you experienced or do you anticipate any interruptions, delays, or modifications in the conduct of these trials due to COVID-19? Please describe any modifications or other adjustments.</p>	<p>The health and safety of our patients is our highest priority. In order to maintain patient safety during this pandemic period, a decision has been made to temporarily hold new patient enrollment into the majority of our ongoing clinical trials and pause initiation of new clinical trial sites. Additional provisions are in place to implement as needed, including but not limited to: remote monitoring visits, remote patient contacts, and direct to patient shipment of investigational medicinal products where appropriate (in compliance with ethical and regulatory guidance as applicable). We are continuously monitoring the situation to assess when we may safely resume clinical trial enrollment including initiation of new clinical trial sites. Decisions to resume these activities will be made jointly between Boehringer Ingelheim, and trial investigators in accordance with institutional policies (and in compliance with</p>

		regulatory guidance and ethics boards as applicable).
4.	To the best of your knowledge, are there any clinical trials that will not take place or will be delayed as a result of COVID-19? Please describe.	At this time, we have not been informed of any planned clinical trials that will not take place as a direct result of COVID-19. As noted above, we have paused initiation of new clinical trial sites until it has been determined that we can safely resume activities. The overall impact to trial delays will depend on the duration of this pandemic and this is being carefully monitored.
5.	Where can patients find information about any increased risk of getting COVID-19 or increased impact of COVID-19 due to any medications provided by your company?	Patients should contact their physician or pharmacist for individual medical advice related to their medications. For specific questions related to any Boehringer Ingelheim medication, healthcare professionals and patients can contact our Medical Information team at 1-800-263-5103 x 84633 (U-4MED) or burmedinfo@boehringer-ingelheim.com (Monday to Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm EST)
6.	To the best of your knowledge, are there any changes in patient support programs that are anticipated or planned, related to issues due to COVID-19? Please describe.	Presently there are no anticipated changes to patient support programs as a result of COVID – 19. The program will continue to support patients as per regular protocols
7.	How can patients or patient organizations find updated information about your company’s policies, plans, or actions related to COVID-19? How will you communicate with patients or patient groups?	The situation surrounding COVID-19 is rapidly evolving and the health and wellbeing of employees, patients and customers is of critical importance. We are closely monitoring developments regarding COVID-19 and following the guidance provided by local and federal health authorities, the Public Health Agency of Canada and the World Health Organization. In consideration of recent national and international developments, we have introduced measures to help stop the progression of COVID-19, minimize the potential for community spread of the virus and protect those who are at higher risk. For a full list of the measures we have enacted and details

		<p>on our fight against COVID-19, please visit www.boehringer-ingenelheim.ca</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Is there any other information that you wish to communicate share at this time?</p>	<p>At the start of the pandemic, we asked ourselves two important questions – what expertise do we have, and how can we help protect people and treat patients?</p> <p>We quickly confirmed there were several ways we could help. As a research-driven company, we are part of the collective effort fighting COVID-19, globally as well as within Canada. We have donated to Innovative Medicines Canada's Industry Fund to contribute to the nation-wide fight against COVID-19. Funds will support a range of activities dependent on the greatest need, and may include allocating resources to purchase personal protective equipment for healthcare workers or supporting health charities. Our global team is testing existing compounds from our current portfolio, as well as those from past research, as potential treatments for COVID-19. Donations have also been made to support areas hardest hit by the virus.</p> <p>We are part of a group of life sciences companies collaborating to accelerate the development, manufacture and delivery of vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments for COVID-19 in response to the pandemic. This work is being done alongside the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.</p> <p>We collaborate with the German Center for Infectious Research (DZIF) and we participate in an open call from the Innovative Medicines Initiative of the European Union for project submissions to accelerate the development of potential therapies and diagnostic tools for COVID-19.</p> <p>Our current portfolio includes compounds that treat respiratory conditions. Our researchers are investigating whether these can treat the dangerous lung symptoms experienced by some people</p>

		<p>infected with COVID-19.</p> <p>Our past research includes antiviral molecules developed for people living with HIV and hepatitis C. Our researchers are investigating whether these molecules can be used against the COVID-19 virus.</p> <p>We are also working to identify novel antibodies to neutralize the virus. Through this type of discovery, we aim to prevent the infection.</p> <p>We continue to monitor the outbreak closely. We have introduced measures to protect the health and wellbeing of our employees, patients and customers. Our business activities focus on ensuring that our patients continue to receive their medications.</p>
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