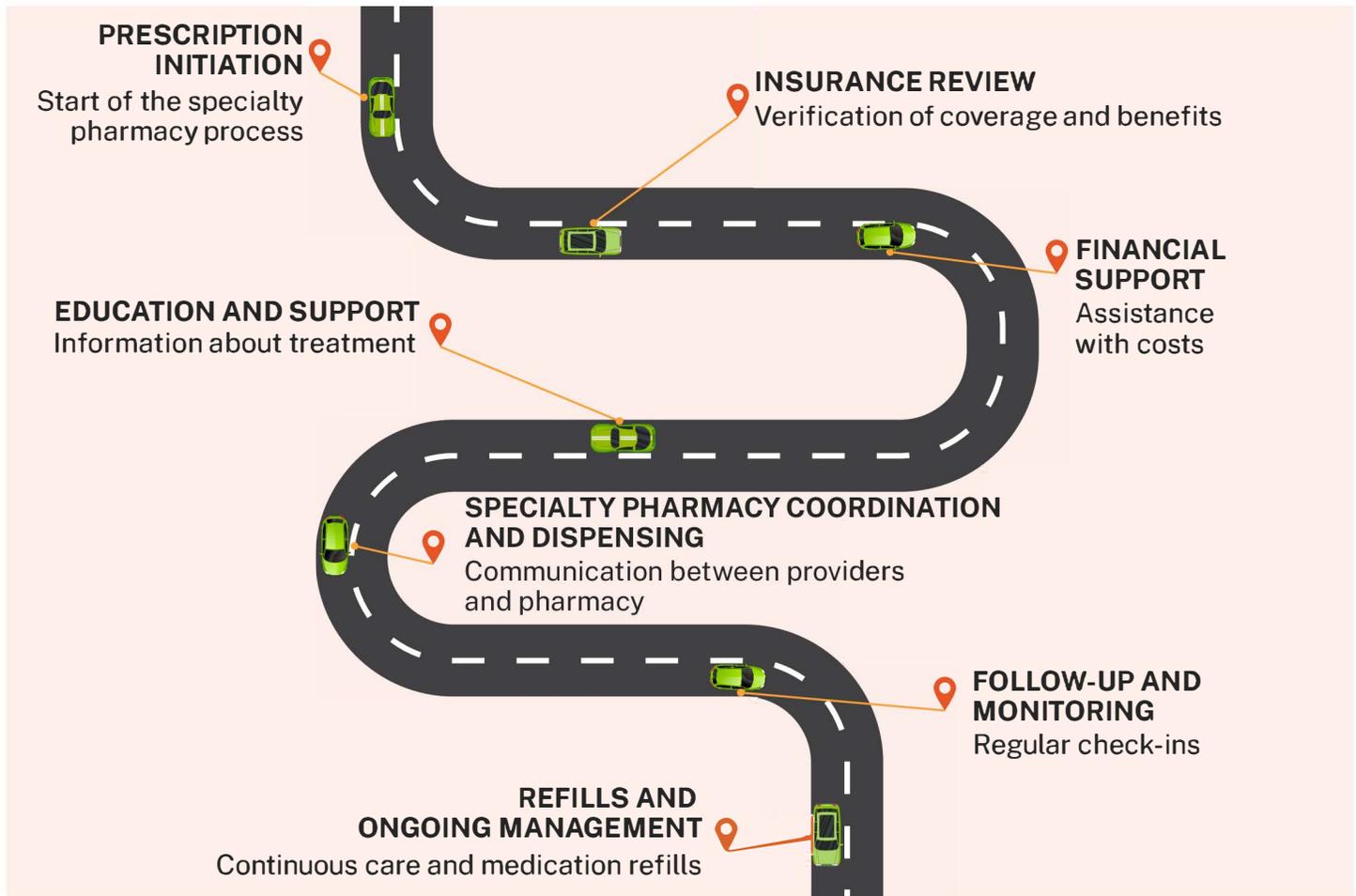


ROADMAP FOR ORAL ONCOLYTICS

A Tip Sheet for Oncology Healthcare Teams

This document serves as a guide for oncology pharmacists and other healthcare professionals navigating the oral oncolytic medication process, from initial prescription to patient dispensing. It outlines the key steps and considerations involved in ensuring safe and timely access to these medications for our patients. Depending on your position, some of these steps may or may not apply to you.



1. Prescription Initiation

- Prescriptions used for the treatment of cancer often require the use of a specialty pharmacy. This is largely attributed to the high cost of medications, need for specialized patient counseling, and complex coordination between payers, patients, and providers.
- **Confirm Prescription Completeness and Accuracy:** Patient information, drug information, diagnosis, refills, and start date
- **Complete Clinical Review:** Indication, dose, cycle length (if applicable), quantity, drug interactions, allergies, renal and hepatic function, prior therapies, comorbidities, and pregnancy status. Supportive medications or other concomitant medications should also be verified.
- The prescription is sent via electronic health record (EHR), fax, or a paper prescription from the oncology office to the specialty pharmacy which is generally dictated by insurance.

2. Insurance Review

- **Insurance Verification:** Verify the patient's insurance coverage and determine if prior authorization is required for the oral oncolytic medication. Instruct the patient to call the oncologist's office if they have not heard from the specialty pharmacy within one week for an update.
- **Prior Authorization (PA):** Initiate the prior authorization process with the insurance company. If you are responsible for completing the PA, make sure you have the patient's most up to date medical information to fill out the PA accurately

2. Insurance Review (Cont.)

- Follow up with the insurance company to ensure timely processing of the prior authorization request. It can take insurance 3 to 7 days to review and approve the medication.
- **Appeal:** Some insurance companies may deny the prescription and require an appeal. This is typically done in the form of a letter, phone call, or a peer-to-peer conversation with the physician to the insurance plan. Gather clinical documentation to support the appeal, including diagnosis, stage of disease, prior therapies, and rationale for the chosen oral oncolytic regimen.

3. Financial Support

- **Financial Assistance:** Assess the patient's financial situation and explore potential financial assistance options if needed, such as manufacturer copay programs, patient assistance foundations, and non-profit organizations.
- Communicate with the patient and the oncology team regarding the availability of financial assistance options. Assist the patient in applying for financial assistance programs, if eligible.

4. Education and Support

- **Comprehensive Counseling:** Schedule a dedicated counseling session with the patient to discuss their oral oncolytic medication. Provide detailed information about the medication including administration instructions, side effects, drug interactions, storage and handling, disposal, adherence, monitoring, and contact information for the pharmacy and the oncology team in case of questions or concerns.
- **Documentation:** Document patient education and counseling session in the patient's medical record as appropriate per your workplace.

5. Specialty Pharmacy Coordination and Dispensing

- **Specialty Pharmacy:** Confirm where the medication will be filled, whether at the cancer center or through a specialty pharmacy mandated by their insurance, and let the patient know.
- **Delivery:** If the medication is being delivered to the patient, confirm the patient's address is correct and notify the patient of the delivery date if possible. If the medication requires a signature, confirm the patient will be available.
- If the patient has concerns about package delivery, encourage them to provide delivery instructions or discuss options to promote more secure delivery (for example, requiring a signature or shipping to one of their local retail stores for pick up).

6. Follow-Up and Monitoring

- **Monitor Adherence:** Follow up with the patient regularly to assess adherence and address any barriers.
- **Monitor Side Effects:** Monitor the patient for side effects and recommend management strategies. Collaborate with the oncology team to add supportive care medications, adjust the dose, or discontinue the medication if necessary.
- **Monitor Labs:** Monitor routine lab work to ensure safe and effective treatment

7. Refills and Ongoing Management

- **Refill Management:** Monitor refills as applicable to ensure the patient does not run out of medication.
- **Insurance/Financial Assistance:** Insurance reviews, prior authorizations, and financial assistance documents may need to be completed regularly. Coordinate with the patient and clinic to ensure there are no lapses that may cause a delay in treatment.
- **Documentation:** Document all monitoring and follow-up activities in the patient's medical record as appropriate per your workplace.

This tip sheet is intended as a general guide and should be supplemented with specific training and resources. Always refer to the most current guidelines and protocols for oral oncolytic medication management.