

## **Retreatment with Rituximab (Rituxan) through EAP: EAP will approve Rituximab renewals in advance of loss of effect/flare**

The EAP does not consider funding of Rituximab in the maintenance setting, however, the ORA has worked with the ministry to extend the duration of coverage of rituximab to avoid delays in access at the point of flare.

The EAP approves rituximab for one year on initial requests and 2 years on first “renewal” to enable up to 2 treatment courses of rituximab (administered at least 6 months apart) to be used upon loss of effect, thereby avoiding the delay to drug access at the point of flare.

Physicians may apply for renewal of rituximab in advance of loss of effect/flare by making an application to the EAP prior to expiry of the coverage (i.e. during the last 6 months of the reimbursement period) by providing the clinical details of the response which should include baseline presentation (swollen joint count prior to rituximab treatment) compared to the evidence of response (i.e. swollen joint count at 3 to 4 months following treatment).

Sincerely,  
ORA EAP Committee,

Dr Henry Averbs, Dr Derek Haaland, Dr Angela Montgomery, Dr Carter Thorne, Dr Deb Levy,  
Dr Arthur Lau, Dr Jane Purvis, Denis Morrice