

To: Emergency Department Physician/Nurse

RE: **CHECKPOINT INHIBITOR ADVERSE REACTION**

From: Dr. _____ (patient's oncologist) at _____
 _____ (cancer centre).

This patient has received treatment with a Checkpoint Inhibitor called:

_____.

Immune-related side effects are known to occur following this treatment. Side effects occur due to unintended tissue injury following treatment with immunotherapy, and **any organ system may be involved.**

These immune-related side-effects **may be severe or life-threatening, and require different management from chemotherapy associated toxicities.**

If immune-related side-effects are suspected, **contact the medical oncologist listed above (or the covering designate).** With prompt management, immune-related side-effects are generally reversible, however immunosuppression may be required.

Signs and symptoms suggestive of immune-related side-effects:		
Gastrointestinal: ♦ Colitis ♦ Pancreatitis ♦ Enteritis ♦ Hepatitis		• Diarrhea • Nausea • Elevated lipase • Gastrointestinal bleeding • Elevated liver enzymes • Abdominal pain/cramping
Pulmonary: ♦ Pneumonitis		• Shortness of breath • Cough • Chest pain • Fever
Skin: ♦ Dermatitis		• Pruritic rash
Endocrine: ♦ Hypophysitis ♦ Adrenal failure ♦ Thyroiditis ♦ Hypo- or hyper-thyroidism ♦ Diabetes		• Fatigue, lethargy • Dehydration • Hypotension • Headache, visual disturbances • Mental status changes • Anxiety, nervousness, tremors
Musculoskeletal: ♦ Arthritis ♦ Myositis		• Joint pain/swelling • Fatigue/myalgias
Neurological: ♦ Peripheral neuropathy ♦ CNS inflammation		• Numbness/pain • Mental status change • Headache • Focal neurological deficit

Signs and symptoms suggestive of immune-related side-effects:

Renal: ♦ Acute kidney injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swelling • Elevated serum creatinine
Cardiac: ♦ Myocarditis ♦ Pericarditis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chest pain • ECG changes • Fever • Elevated cardiac enzymes
Fever: 38.9 °C or higher with any of the following:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lasts longer than 24 hours • with other symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, pain, dizziness, nausea or diarrhea • feels unwell
*If the patient is also taking chemotherapy, follow the chemotherapy fever guidelines instead:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have been told to report to the nearest ER as soon as possible if febrile (a single oral temperature of 38.3°C/100.9°F or higher or an oral temperature reading of 38.0°C/100.4°F measured at 2 occasions, 1 hour apart). If left untreated, this complication of febrile neutropenia could lead to life-threatening sepsis.

For complete recommendations and evidence, access the full guideline at:

www.ahs.ca/guru > Symptom Management > Checkpoint Inhibitor Toxicities

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Daytime Weekdays	
Calgary (Arthur Child)	Call patient's oncologist/hematologist as listed above directly or call 587-231-3131 and ask to speak to the patient's oncologist/hematologist. After hours, weekends and holidays call 587-231-3100, press 0, and request the on-call oncologist/hematologist, or use ROCA
Edmonton (Cross Cancer Institute)	780-432-8771, After hours, weekends and holidays - contact the on-call oncologist/hematologist, or use ROCA.
Grande Prairie (Grande Prairie Cancer Centre)	825-412-4200
Lethbridge (Jack Ady Cancer Centre)	403-388-6802
Medicine Hat (Margery E. Yuill Cancer Centre)	403-529-8817
Red Deer (Central Alberta Cancer Centre)	403-343-4526
After Hours	
RAAPID North at 1-800-282-9911	
RAAPID South at 1-800-661-1700	

Thank you for your assistance in the care of this patient