

Email to Kathleen Coleman, Nova Scotia

Dear Ms. Coleman,

Thank you. On behalf of members of the CanCertainty Coalitions, including cancer patient groups, oncologists, pharmacists and health policy advisors, we thank you for your detailed response to the concerns raised on behalf of cancer patients in Nova Scotia during the COVID-19 pandemic.

While collectively we acknowledge the actions taken, such as extending special authorization for medications, will help some cancer patients in Nova Scotia, there are still concerns that cancer patients will be left even more vulnerable as a result of the pandemic. Specifically, we are hearing concerns in Nova Scotia regarding:

- Awareness of and navigating the Take Home Cancer Drugs fund
- Affordability of program expectation of 4% household income during the current financial crisis
- Ability to afford deductibles and copays for all supportive care medications needed in conjunction with funded cancer therapies.

At this time, we are continuing to follow up with cancer patients, clinicians, drug navigators, and other healthcare professionals to understand their specific needs amidst the loss of employment benefits, loss of income, and catastrophic drug expenses.

We appreciate your response and will continue to be in touch with you to find solutions that ensure all cancer patients can access and afford effective take-home cancer treatments during what has become both a health and a financial catastrophe for families in Nova Scotia.

Best regards,
The CanCertainty Team

cc: Dr. Bruce Colwell, Medical Oncologist at QEII Health Science Centre and President, Canadian Association of Medical Oncologists

cc: Deborah Maskens, Robert Bick, Co-Chairs, CanCertainty Coalition