



Company Statement

Media Contact: Mary-Jo Barr
Mary-Jo.Barr@Merck.com

Merck Canada has successfully imported 3,500 doses of U.S.-labelled OncoTICE® (marketed as TICE® BCG in the U.S.) to alleviate a shortage of the medication in Canada

KIRKLAND, QC – June 27, 2019 – Merck Canada Inc. (“Merck Canada”) is pleased to announce that it has successfully imported 3,500 doses of U.S.-labelled OncoTICE® (marketed as TICE® BCG in the United States) to fulfill an urgent need for the medicine, a treatment for certain forms of bladder cancer, in Canada.

Due to increased demand worldwide, loss of other manufacturers, and occasional unanticipated inventory constraints as a result of the lengthy and complex manufacturing process for this medicine, OncoTICE® (Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG), Strain TICE®) availability in Canada has been on allocation, based on customers’ historical consumption patterns, since October 2018. During that time, Merck Canada has fulfilled 75 to 100% of the normal demand. However, as communicated on the drugshortagescanada.ca website on May 23, 2019, a recent manufacturing constraint resulted in a temporary backorder of the product in Canada, and the potential for OncoTICE® to be temporarily unavailable in Canada from late June to late July 2019. As the sole supplier of OncoTICE® in Canada, Merck Canada worked urgently to resolve the shortage.

Merck Canada is pleased to announce that the temporary shortage is now resolved and we have resumed the allocation plan that has been in place since October 2018. Given the medical necessity of this product and the impact that a prolonged shortage of OncoTICE® could have on the Canadian health care system, Merck Canada proposed to Health Canada that 3,500 doses of the medication be imported from the United States to help mitigate any disruption in Canada. Health Canada agreed to this proposal. The export of this quantity of medicine from the U.S. to Canada did not impact the ongoing allocation process or quantities of TICE® BCG available in the U.S. market.

Sole supplier of BCG, Strain TICE® in Canada:

In 2012, Merck unexpectedly became the sole supplier of OncoTICE® (BCG, Strain TICE®) in many countries, including Canada. Since then, to help fill the market void, Merck has increased production of OncoTICE® by more than 100 percent and has been producing it to the full extent of its manufacturing capacity. However, any unanticipated issue in the manufacturing process or increased demand may lead to shortages or backorders and impact availability.

More details about Merck's long-term commitment to OncoTICE® can be found at Merck.com.

About Merck Canada

For over a century, Merck, a leading global biopharmaceutical company known as MSD outside of the United States and Canada, has been inventing for life, bringing forward medicines and vaccines for many of the world's most challenging diseases. Through our prescription medicines, vaccines, biologic therapies and animal health products, we work with customers and operate in more than 140 countries to deliver innovative health solutions. We also demonstrate our commitment to increasing access to health care through far-reaching policies, programs and partnerships.

Today, Merck continues to be at the forefront of research to advance the prevention and treatment of diseases that threaten people and communities around the world - including cancer, cardio-metabolic diseases, emerging animal diseases, Alzheimer's disease and infectious diseases including HIV and Ebola. For more information about our operations in Canada, visit www.merck.ca and connect with us on [YouTube](#) and [Twitter @MerckCanada](#).

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