

Email to provincial health ministers and drug plan managers

Re: Ofev for other progressive fibrotic ILDs

Subject line: Now is the time to add nintedanib (Ofev) to provincial formularies

Dear Salutation + Name

In February 2021, CADTH (Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health) and INESSS (L'Institut national d'excellence en santé et en service sociaux) recommended that nintedanib (Ofev) be reimbursed for the treatment of chronic pulmonary fibrosing interstitial lung diseases (ILDs) with a progressive phenotype under certain conditions. (You can read the CADTH summary report [here](#) and the INESSS report [here](#).)

The Canadian Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation (CPFF) was very pleased to learn this treatment was approved for individuals living with the breathlessness and bleak prognosis of other ILDs. Nintedanib has been used to treat one type of ILD – idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) – in Canada since 2015 and is now listed and fully reimbursed under all provincial health plans across the country for the treatment of IPF.

While CPFF recognizes that governments' health care resources are currently focused on battling the COVID-19 pandemic, we believe that now is the time to add nintedanib to federal and provincial formularies, so at least it can be covered by private drug insurance plans, partially or fully, depending on an individual's healthcare plan.

Of course the ultimate aim is to have equal access, fully reimbursed, for all Canadians who live with the debilitating effects of chronic pulmonary fibrosing ILDs.

I invite you to read the CPFF [patient submission](#) made to CADTH and INESS for this expanded use for nintedanib. There you will find patient survey results and testimonials on the impact of these conditions on people's lives, as well as its impact on their families and communities.

In addition, expanded access to anti-fibrotic medication, along with other therapies, means lung transplant can be **one** option, rather than the **only** option, to alleviate the steady decline, and untimely death, of people living with pulmonary fibrosis.

We respectfully request that you at least place nintedanib on your provincial formulary in a timely manner, until it can be fully reimbursed under your provincial drug program.

If you require further information, please contact Sharon Lee, Executive Director, CPFF at Sharon@cpff.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SAL'.

Sharon Lee
Executive Director,
Canadian Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation