pCODR EXPERT REVIEW COMMITTEE (PERC) INITIAL RECOMMENDATION

The pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review (pCODR) was established by Canada's provincial and territorial Ministries of Health (with the exception of Quebec) to assess cancer drug therapies and make recommendations to guide drug-funding decisions. The pCODR process brings consistency and clarity to the cancer drug assessment process by looking at clinical evidence, cost-effectiveness and patient perspectives.

Providing Feedback on this Initial Recommendation

Taking into consideration feedback from eligible stakeholders, the pERC will make a Final Recommendation. Feedback must be provided in accordance with *pCODR Procedures*, which are available on the pCODR website. The Final Recommendation will be posted on the

pCODR website once available, and will supersede this Initial Recommendation.

Drug:

Pomalidomide (Pomalyst)

Submitted Funding Request:

In combination with low-dose dexamethasone for patients with multiple myeloma for whom both bortezomib and lenalidomide have failed and who have received at least two prior treatment regimens and have demonstrated disease progression on the last regimen

Submitted By: Celgene Inc.

Manufactured By: Celgene Inc.

NOC Date: January 20, 2014

Submission Date: January 13, 2014

Initial Recommendation Issued: May 30, 2014

PERC RECOMMENDATION	The pCODR Expert Review Committee (pERC) recommends funding pomalidomide (Pomalyst) in patients with relapsed and/or refractory multiple myeloma who have previously failed two treatments, including both bortezomib and lenalidomide, and demonstrated disease progression on the last treatment, conditional on the cost-effectiveness being improved to an acceptable level. Pomalidomide should also be an option in instances where bortezomib is contraindicated, where it cannot be administered logistically, or when patients are intolerant to it but, in all cases, patients should have failed lenalidomide. pERC made this recommendation because it was satisfied that there is a net clinical benefit of pomalidomide in this setting. However, at the submitted price and based on the Economic Guidance Panel's range of best estimates of the incremental cost-effectiveness ratio, pomalidomide could not be considered cost-effective compared with best supportive care.
POTENTIAL NEXT STEPS FOR STAKEHOLDERS	Pricing Arrangements to Improve Cost-effectiveness Given that pERC was satisfied that there is a net clinical benefit of pomalidomide in patients with relapsed and/or refractory multiple myeloma, jurisdictions may want to consider pricing arrangements and/or cost structures that would improve the cost-effectiveness of pomalidomide to an acceptable level. pERC noted that jurisdictions need to consider the impact of dose adjustments on capsule burden since pomalidomide is flat priced per capsule, not per milligram and as such actual use in clinical practice may significantly increase costs.

Initial Recommendation for Pomalidomide (Pomalyst) for Multiple Myeloma pERC Meeting: May 15, 2014 © 2014 pCODR | PAN-CANADIAN ONCOLOGY DRUG REVIEW

PCODR PAN-CANADIAN ONCOLOGY DRUG REVIEW

SUMMARY OF PERC DELIBERATIONS

pERC discussed that multiple myeloma is an uncommon cancer. Patients are commonly treated with alkylating agents followed by bortezomib and/or lenalidomide in various combinations with steroids such as dexamethasone. However, patients eventually become refractory or intolerant to these treatments and, when this occurs, treatment options other than supportive care are limited. Therefore, pERC agreed with the pCODR Clinical Guidance Panel that there is a need for effective treatment options for patients with relapsed and/or refractory multiple myeloma who have progressed following treatment with bortezomib and lenalidomide.

The pCODR systematic review included one randomized controlled trial, MM-003 (San Miguel 2013), that



evaluated pomalidomide plus low-dose dexamethasone compared with high-dose dexamethasone in patients with relapsed and/or refractory multiple myeloma that have received at least two previous consecutive cycles of bortezomib and lenalidomide and had failed these previous treatments. pERC noted that there was a statistically significant improvement in both overall survival (4.6 months, HR=0.74 95% CI 0.56 to 0.97) and progression-free survival (2.1 months, HR=0.48, 95%CI: 0.39 to 0.61) that favoured pomalidomide plus low-dose dexamethasone versus high-dose dexamethasone. pERC discussed the magnitude of benefit in progression-free survival and noted that, although this was modest, it was considered clinically meaningful in this population of heavily pre-treated patients. In addition, pERC noted that a meaningful survival benefit occurred, despite cross-over being permitted in the trial, which often masks an overall survival benefit. There were also differences in quality of life measures favouring the pomalidomide group, including longer median times to worsening of fatigue and emotional functioning in the pomalidomide group, which were clinically meaningful and statistically significant. pERC discussed the toxicity profile of pomalidomide and noted that adverse events appeared similar between the pomalidomide plus low-dose dexamethasone group versus the high-dose dexamethasone group. However, grade 3 and 4 neutropenia was significantly higher in the pomalidomide group. pERC also considered that thromboembolic events were similar between the two groups and noted that all patients receiving pomalidomide were required to take thromboprophylaxis. pERC discussed that patients would have had similar risks of vascular thrombosis (e.g. stroke) when receiving lenalidomide and this risk appears to be manageable in clinical practice. pERC also noted that more second primary malignancies were observed in the pomalidomide group compared with the control group. However, pERC was uncertain how to interpret these data as patients had been previously exposed to long-term lenalidomide and there may have been insufficient time to develop malignancies after exposure to pomalidomide. The association between long-term lenalidomide use and second malignancy is more clear. Therefore, pERC considered the overall adverse event profile to be manageable. After deliberating on all of these factors, pERC concluded that there is a net clinical benefit associated with pomalidomide.

pERC deliberated upon input from one patient advocacy group on pomalidomide. pERC noted that the majority of patients considered that pomalidomide compared favourably with other treatments for multiple myeloma; however, some patients reported negative experiences or adverse events while receiving pomalidomide. However, pERC considered that some of these events may have been associated with the disease and not the drug. When considering the MM-003 study, pERC noted that the frequency and type of adverse events were generally similar between the pomalidomide group and the control group. Patient input also indicated that patients valued improvements in quality of life and treatments with manageable toxicities. They also valued being able to choose among drugs with different side effect profiles. pERC discussed that the MM-003 study provided evidence that there were differences in quality of life favouring pomalidomide and that adverse events of pomalidomide are manageable. Therefore, pERC considered that pomalidomide aligned with patient values.

pERC deliberated upon the cost-effectiveness of pomalidomide compared with best supportive care. pERC noted that the pCODR Economic Guidance Panel's estimates were less favourable than the manufacturer's estimates. This was primarily because the definition of best supportive care used by the



Clinical Guidance Panel and applied to the economic analysis was considered more appropriate than the manufacturer's definition. In the absence of other treatment options, and in a heavily pre-treated population, the CGP considered high-dose dexamethasone to be the most relevant comparison while the manufacturer included a number of different and more costly treatments in the best supportive care arm that both the CGP and pERC would have expected to have used earlier in treatment. The manufacturer's approach reduces the cost differential between pomalidomide and best supportive care. In addition, the manufacturer's estimates likely overestimate the post-progression survival benefit of pomalidomide. Therefore, pERC accepted the EGP's range of estimates and concluded that pomalidomide could not be considered cost-effective at the submitted price.

pERC discussed the feasibility of implementing a funding recommendation for pomalidomide. pERC noted that registration due to controlled distribution of pomalidomide would likely not be a barrier as patients would already be registered in this program when they previously received treatment with lenalidomide. pERC also discussed that these patients would also previously have received prophylaxis and been monitored for thromboembolism while receiving lenalidomide. Therefore, the duration of this monitoring and these supportive care costs would be extended for patients going on to receive pomalidomide. pERC discussed the pCODR Clinical Guidance Panel's position that the benefit of pomalidomide likely extends to patients with slowly progressing disease, even though these patients were not included in the MM-003 study. However, pERC considered that there was insufficient evidence to be able to make a recommendation to fund pomalidomide in this population and that the trial inclusion criteria should be followed when defining patients with multiple myeloma for pomalidomide eligibility. pERC also discussed that pomalidomide is priced per capsule and not per milligram, which is a barrier to implementation because actual use in clinical practice could increase costs significantly, depending on if dose reductions are required or what combination of capsules is used.



EVIDENCE IN BRIEF

pERC deliberated upon a pCODR systematic review, other literature in the Clinical Guidance Report providing clinical context, an evaluation of the manufacturer's economic model and budget impact analysis, guidance from pCODR clinical and economic review panels, input from one patient advocacy group (Myeloma Canada) and input from pCODR's Provincial Advisory Group.

OVERALL CLINICAL BENEFIT

pCODR review scope

The objective of this review is to evaluate the effect of pomalidomide plus low-dose dexamethasone on patient outcomes, compared to standard treatments in patients with relapsed and/or refractory multiple myeloma for whom bortezomib and lenalidomide have failed and who have received at least two prior treatment regimens and have demonstrated disease progression on the last treatment regimen.

Studies included: one randomized controlled trial

The pCODR systematic review included one open-label randomized controlled trial (MM-003, San Miguel 2013) that evaluated the safety and efficacy of pomalidomide plus low-dose dexamethasone (n=302) compared to high-dose dexamethasone (n=153). The study was conducted in patients with relapsed and/or refractory multiple myeloma who had received at least two previous consecutive cycles of bortezomib and lenalidomide and who had failed the previous treatment with bortezomib or lenalidomide. Failure was defined as progressive disease on or before 60 days of treatment, progressive disease ≤ six months after achieving partial response, or intolerance to bortezomib. Treatment was continued until progressive disease or unacceptable toxicity occurred. Patients were allowed to cross-over between the study arms following disease progression.

Patient populations: heavily pre-treated population, rapidly-progressing disease

The majority of patients in Study MM-003 had an ECOG performance status of 0 or 1 in both the pomalidomide plus low-dose dexamethasone group and the high dose dexamethasone group (82% and 80%, respectively). In both groups, approximately 94% of patients had failed more than two previous treatments, and the median number of previous treatments was five.

pERC discussed the pCODR Clinical Guidance Panel's position that the benefit of pomalidomide likely extends to patients with slowly progressing disease, even though these patients were not included in the MM-003 study. pERC discussed whether or not the results of study MM-003 in patients with rapidly-progressing disease could be generalized to patients with slowly-progressing disease. pERC discussed that there is a small phase two study demonstrating that pomalidomide has an effect in all stages of disease, however, this evidence was not included in the pCODR systematic review and pERC did not consider it sufficient to make a recommendation in this population. pERC also discussed issues such as what proportion of patients would have rapidly progressing disease versus slow progressing disease, what treatment options would be available for these patients and if a clinical trial was feasible in this population. However, pERC considered there was insufficient evidence to be able to make a recommendation in this population and that the inclusion criteria of Study MM-003 should be followed when defining patients with multiple myeloma for pomalidomide eligibility.

pERC also discussed that in addition to permitting pomalidomide in patients for whom bortezomib is contraindicated or who are intolerant to bortezomib, as per Study MM-003, pomalidomide should also be permitted when bortezomib cannot be administered to patients for logistical reasons. However, pERC confirmed that, as per Study MM-003, that all patients receiving pomalidomide should have tried and failed lenalidomide.

Key efficacy results: statistically significant improvement in overall survival and progression-free survival

Key efficacy outcomes deliberated on by pERC included progression free survival, the primary outcome of Study MM-003, and overall survival. pERC noted that there was a statistically significant improvement in both overall survival (12.7 vs 8.1 months, respectively; HR=0.74 95% CI 0.56-0.97) and progression-free



survival (4.0 months vs 1.9 months, respectively; HR=0.48, 95%CI: 0.39 to 0.61) that favoured pomalidomide plus low-dose dexamethasone versus high-dose dexamethasone. pERC discussed the magnitude of benefit in progression-free survival was modest but considered it to be clinically meaningful in this population of heavily pre-treated patients. In addition, pERC considered that this was accompanied by a meaningful overall survival benefit, despite cross-over being permitted between treatment groups upon disease progression, which tends to mask an overall survival benefit.

Quality of life: clinically and statistically significant improvements related to fatigue and emotional functioning

pERC discussed that there were also statistically significant improvements in two quality of life metrics favouring the pomalidomide group in Study MM-003: pomalidomide plus low-dose dexamethasone extended median times to meaningful worsening of fatigue (113 versus 60 days, p=0.04) and emotional functioning (190 versus 124 days, p=0.02) when compared to high-dose dexamethasone, as measured by the EORTC QLQ-30. pERC considered that the magnitude of these differences is clinically relevant and that these are important outcomes for patients who value improved quality of life, as noted in the patient advocacy group input.

Safety: thromboprophylaxis required but manageable adverse event profile

pERC deliberated upon the safety of pomalidomide based on the results of Study MM-003. pERC noted that more patients in the pomalidomide plus high-dose dexamethasone group reported grade 3 or grade 4 neutropenia compared to the low-dose dexamethasone group (48% versus 16%, respectively). However, other adverse events, including serious infections, appeared similar between groups. pERC noted that there was no difference in venous thromboembolic events between the two groups, despite a serious warning in the product monograph for deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism. pERC discussed that in Study MM-003, all patients who received pomalidomide or who were at high risk of developing thrombosis were required to take thromboprophylaxis. Choice of prophylaxis treatment was at the discretion of the physician. pERC discussed that patients would have had similar risks of vascular thrombosis (e.g. stroke) when receiving lenalidomide, a similar drug, earlier in their treatment course and that this risk appears to be manageable in clinical practice. pERC also noted that more patients developed a second primary malignancy in the pomalidomide plus high-dose dexamethasone group compared with the low-dose dexamethasone group (4 versus 1, respectively). However, pERC was uncertain about how to interpret these data as patients had been previously exposed to long-term lenalidomide and there may have been insufficient time to develop malignancies after exposure to pomalidomide. The association between long-term lenalidomide use and second malignancy is more clear. pERC also noted that, similar to lenalidomide, a controlled distribution programme was in place for pomalidomide. After deliberating on these factors, pERC considered that the overall toxicity of pomalidomide was acceptable and that the adverse event profile was manageable.

Need: effective treatment options for heavily pre-treated patients

pERC discussed that multiple myeloma is an uncommon cancer. It represents approximately 1.2% of all new cancers in Canada with an estimated 2500 Canadians being diagnosed in 2013 and 1350 dying from this disease. The median age at presentation is 70 years with a slightly higher incidence in males. The five year survival for all patients is 43%.

Patients with multiple myeloma are commonly treated with alkylating agents followed by bortezomib and/or lenalidomide in various combinations with steroids such as dexamethasone. However, patients eventually become refractory or intolerant to these treatments. Although steroid therapy alone is used for palliation and symptom control to slow progressive disease without negatively impacting quality of life, there is currently no clear standard of care for patients who are refractory or intolerant to these treatments. Therefore, pERC agreed with the pCODR Clinical Guidance Panel that there is a need for effective treatment options for patients with relapsed and/or refractory multiple myeloma who have failed treatment with both bortezomib and lenalidomide.



PATIENT-BASED VALUES.

Values of patients with multiple myeloma: effective therapies with less fatigue and fewer infections

pERC deliberated upon input from one patient advocacy group on pomalidomide. Patients expressed the concern that their disease has a significant impact on their quality of life. Therefore, the majority of patients would value having access to effective treatments for myeloma. pERC discussed that the MM-003 study provided evidence that pomalidomide is an effective therapy that improves overall survival and progression-free survival. pERC also discussed that, based on the results of the MM-003 study, pomalidomide provides patients with a longer period of time before fatigue and emotional functioning decline. Patients ranked infections as the most important myeloma-related complications to control. Infections were followed by kidney problems, pain, mobility, neuropathy, shortness of breath and fatigue. pERC noted that infections were similar between the pomalidomide and the control group in Study MM-003.

Patient values on treatment: better tolerated treatments and choice of side effects

pERC discussed that the majority of patients valued being able to choose among drugs with different side effect profiles. Patients expressed the importance of having a treatment alternative that is better suited for them. pERC acknowledged the large number of patients who provided input on their personal direct experiences with pomalidomide, which was very useful in determining if pomalidomide aligned with patient values. pERC also noted that the patient input provided a balanced perspective on the drug. For example, although the majority of patients considered that pomalidomide compared favourably with other treatments for multiple myeloma, some patients reported negative experiences with pomalidomide.

Fatigue was noted by most patients as the number one side effect of current treatments, followed by neuropathy, nausea and stomach issues. Although, patients reported that adverse events occurred while receiving pomalidomide, pERC considered that some of these events overlapped with those associated with multiple myeloma and noted that it can be challenging when taking a drug to determine which adverse events are associated with the drug versus the disease. When considering the MM-003 study, pERC noted that the frequency and type of adverse events were generally similar between the pomalidomide group and the control group. pERC also noted that many of the adverse events associated with pomalidomide aligned with patient values by providing an effective and tolerable treatment option for patients.

ECONOMIC EVALUATION

Economic model submitted: cost utility, differences in definition of best supportive care The pCODR Economic Guidance Panel assessed a cost-effectiveness and cost-utility analysis of pomalidomide plus low dose dexamethasone versus best supportive care for patients with relapsed and/or refractory multiple myeloma. The patient population was defined similarly to those in the MM-003 study.

The submitter defined best supportive care as a combination of possible therapies (e.g., lenalidomide plus dexamethasone, bortezomib plus dexamethasone, stem cell transplantation, palliative care). However, the pCODR Clinical Guidance Panel considered that high-dose dexamethasone, as used in the MM-003 study, was the most appropriate form of best supportive care, or palliative care.

Basis of the economic model: clinical and economic inputs

Costs considered in the analysis included treatment costs, the cost of treating adverse events, oncologist visits and transfusions.

The clinical effects considered in the analysis were based on estimates of overall survival and progression free survival from the MM-003 study. Quality of life estimates were obtained from both the trial and literature.



Drug costs: price per capsule rather than per milligram could increase drug costs

At the list price, pomalidomide costs \$500.00 per 1 mg, 2 mg, 3 mg and 4 mg capsule. At the recommended dose of 4mg orally on days 1 to 21 of 28-day cycle, for a 70 kg patient, pomalidomide costs an average of \$375.00 per day, distributed over a 28 day period, and \$10,500.00 per 28 day course. pERC also discussed that pomalidomide is priced per capsule and not per milligram, which is a barrier to implementation because actual use in clinical practice could increase costs significantly. Depending on the combination of capsules used to provide a 4 mg dose or the dose adjustments required to manage tolerability, the price of pomalidomide may be as high as \$1500.00 per day and \$42,000.00 per 28-day course.

Dexamethasone costs \$0.3046 per 4 mg tablet.

- At the recommended dose of 40 mg on days 1, 8, 15 and 22 low-dose dexamethasone costs an average of \$0.44 per day, distributed over a 28 day period, and \$12.32 per 28-day course.
- At the recommended dose of 40 mg on days 1 to 4, days 9 to 12, and days 17 to 20, high-dose dexamethasone costs an average of \$1.31 per day, distributed over a 28 day period, and \$36.55 per 28-day course.

pERC also noted that in the MM-003 study, for all patients over 75 years dexamethasone was given at 20 mg/day.

Cost-effectiveness estimates: costs of best supportive care and post-progression survival overestimated

pERC deliberated upon the cost-effectiveness of pomalidomide plus low-dose dexamethasone compared with best supportive care. pERC noted that the pCODR Economic Guidance Panel's estimates were less favourable than the manufacturer's. This was primarily because pERC considered that the definition of best supportive care used by the Clinical Guidance Panel was more appropriate than the manufacturer's. In the absence of other treatment options, and in a heavily pre-treated population, the CGP considered that high-dose dexamethasone would be the most relevant comparison. The manufacturer included a number of different and more costly treatments in the best supportive care arm that both the CGP and pERC would have expected to have used earlier in treatment, which led to an overestimate of the costs of best supportive care. In addition, the manufacturer's estimates likely overestimated the post-progression survival benefit of pomalidomide. It was noted that in the manufacturer's submitted model, the majority of the clinical benefit is a result of post-progression survival, which is unrealistic from a clinical perspective. The EGP's best estimates attempted to adjust for these factors; therefore, pERC accepted the EGP's range of estimates and concluded that pomalidomide could not be considered cost-effective at the submitted price.

ADOPTION FEASIBILITY

Considerations for implementation and budget impact: flat pricing, additional resources pERC deliberated upon the feasibility of implementing a funding recommendation for pomalidomide. pERC discussed input from PAG that identified the requirement for registration with the federally mandated monitoring program for pomalidomide. Although this might be a barrier that could delay access pERC noted that most patients would already be registered in this program when they previously received treatment with lenalidomide.

pERC discussed input from PAG regarding the additional health care resources that would be required to monitor and treat toxicities associated with pomalidomide including neutropenia and venous thromboembolism. pERC noted that these patients would also previously have received thromboprophylaxis and been monitored for thromboembolism while receiving previous lenalidomide therapy. Therefore, the duration of this monitoring and these supportive care costs would be extended for patients who go on to receive pomalidomide. pERC also noted input from PAG indicated that, although the number of eligible patients with multiple myeloma may be small, there would be a budget impact for a new line of therapy since palliative treatment with high-dose dexamethasone or cyclophosphamide/prednisone is relatively inexpensive.



pERC also discussed that pomalidomide is priced per capsule and not per milligram, which is a barrier to implementation because actual use in clinical practice could increase costs significantly, depending on what combination of capsules is used.

DRUG AND CONDITION INFORMATION

Drug Information	 Immunomodulatory agent, thalidomide derivative 1 mg, 2 mg, 3 mg and 4 mg capsule 4 mg daily on day 1 to 21 in combination with low-dose dexamethasone 40 mg on days 1, 8, 15, and 22 of a 28-day cycle
Cancer Treated	 Relapsed and/or refractory multiple myeloma After failure of both bortezomib and lenalidomide
Burden of Illness	 1.2% of all new cancers in Canada Five-year survival for all patients is 43%
Current Standard Treatment	 No clear standard of care after patients relapse on and/or become refractory to bortezomib and lenalidomide Steroids alone used for palliative care and symptom control
Limitations of Current Therapy	 No effective treatment options at this stage of disease

ABOUT THIS RECOMMENDATION

The pCODR Expert Review Committee (pERC)

Recommendations are made by the pCODR Expert Review Committee following the pERC Deliberative Framework. pERC members and their roles are as follows:

Dr. Anthony Fields, Oncologist (Chair) Dr. Maureen Trudeau, Oncologist (Vice-Chair) Dr. Chaim Bell, Economist Dr. Scott Berry, Oncologist Bryson Brown, Patient Member Dr. Matthew Cheung, Oncologist Mario de Lemos, Pharmacist Dr. Sunil Desai, Oncologist Mike Doyle, Economist Dr. Bill Evans, Oncologist Dr. Allan Grill, Family Physician Dr. Paul Hoskins, Oncologist Danica Wasney, Pharmacist Carole McMahon, Patient Member Alternate Jo Nanson, Patient Member Dr. Peter Venner, Oncologist Dr. Tallal Younis, Oncologist

All members participated in deliberations and voting on the initial recommendation except:

 Dr. Chaim Bell, Dr. Scott Berry, Bryson Brown, Dr. Matthew Cheung and Dr. Paul Hoskins, who were not present for the meeting

Avoidance of conflicts of interest

All members of the pCODR Expert Review Committee must comply with the pCODR Conflict of Interest Guidelines; individual conflict of interest statements for each member are posted on the pCODR website and pERC members have an obligation to disclose conflicts on an ongoing basis. For the review of pomalidomide (Pomalyst) for multiple myeloma, through their declarations, three members had a real, potential or perceived conflict and based on application of the pCODR Conflict of Interest Guidelines, none of these members was excluded from voting.



Information sources used

The pCODR Expert Review Committee is provided with a *pCODR Clinical Guidance Report* and a *pCODR Economic Guidance Report*, which include a summary of patient advocacy group and Provincial Advisory Group input, as well as original patient advocacy group input submissions to inform their deliberations. pCODR guidance reports are developed following the pCODR review process and are posted on the pCODR website. Please refer to the pCODR guidance reports for more detail on their content.

Consulting publicly disclosed information

pCODR considers it essential that pERC recommendations be based on information that may be publicly disclosed. All information provided to the pCODR Expert Review Committee for its deliberations was handled in accordance with the *pCODR Disclosure of Information Guidelines*. There was no non-disclosable information in this recommendation document.

Use of this recommendation

This recommendation from the pCODR Expert Review Committee (pERC) is not intended as a substitute for professional advice, but rather to help Canadian health systems leaders and policymakers make wellinformed decisions and improve the quality of health care services. While patients and others may use this Recommendation, it is for informational and educational purposes only, and should not be used as a substitute for the application of clinical judgment respecting the care of a particular patient, for professional judgment in any decision-making process, or for professional medical advice.

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