



CONSENT AND DIRECTION FOR RIBAVIRIN TREATMENT

I hereby confirm that I have been diagnosed with Cancer. I further confirm that I have elected to have Medicor Cancer Centres Inc. ("Medicor") treat my cancer with the drug **ribavirin** (RBV).

I understand that RBV is an antiviral drug normally used to treat viral hepatitis, and that it has been studied by researchers at the University of Montreal in a small human trial of acute leukemia (blood cancer) in which it was found to induce remission or disease stabilization in 8 out of 11 patients (*Molecular targeting of the oncogene eIF4E in AML: a proof-of-principle clinical trial with ribavirin. Blood. 2009 May 11*). In theory, RBV can be effective at treating other cancers based on other research. These include cancer of the bladder (transitional cell carcinoma), breast, cervix, colon, brain (glioblastoma), head and neck (squamous cell carcinoma), lung, lymphatics (lymphoma) and prostate.

I am aware that the RBV treatment provided by Medicor is a promising cancer treatment, but has not yet been fully proven to be effective for cancers other than acute leukemia (either on its own, or combined with other treatments). I understand that the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario considers the use of RBV to treat cancer to be unproven and not within the usual practice of medicine in this province.

I confirm that one of the following is true:

A. I am not currently being offered medical treatment of my cancer, either because all standard medical treatments have failed, or because my oncologist (or other specialist) has determined that there are no proven treatment options for me. I understand that instead of RBV, I have a choice to receive no treatment for my cancer, and that I have the option of receiving only comfort care (palliative care).

B. I am currently receiving generally accepted medical treatment for my cancer which is not working optimally or has a poor chance of success, and I would like to combine it with RBV treatment.

C. I have been offered generally accepted medical treatments for my cancer. After reviewing the risks and benefits of those treatments with my specialist(s), I voluntarily chose not to receive them. At this time I would like to be treated with RBV.

Potential Benefits

I understand that:

- it is hoped that RBV will cause stabilization of cancer growth, or possibly shrinking of cancer
- the likelihood of these benefits is unknown
- it is expected to take at least 4 weeks before we can tell if the RBV is effective
- Medicor may collect information from my treatment to help doctors learn more about RBV as a treatment for cancer, and that this information could help future cancer patients
- my privacy will be maintained at all times in this process

Potential Risks

I understand that:

- RBV is used in humans to treat an infection of the liver called viral hepatitis in combination with a drug called interferon
- RBV appears to be safe to use in cancer patients, based on limited human research
- I may have side effects while receiving RBV
- I will be watched carefully for any side effects
- doctors don't know all the side effects that may happen
- side effects may be mild or very serious
- I may be given medicines to help lessen side effects
- many side effects go away soon after I stop taking RBV
- the medical literature reports a long list of side effects of ribavirin + interferon, but most of these appear to be related to interferon and not ribavirin

Common Side Effects

I understand that RBV can cause:

- low red cells in the blood, resulting in fatigue or dizziness ("hemolysis")

Uncommon Side Effects

I understand that RBV can cause:

- allergy
- nausea
- depressed feeling
- headache
- fatigue

The most important RBV side effects appears to be "extravascular hemolysis" (destruction of red blood cells by the liver and spleen). This side effect is treated by stopping the RBV or reducing the RBV dose, and may also be treated by addition of a weekly hormone injection to boost the number of red cells (erythropoietin).

Unknown Side Effects

I understand that:

- RBV can cause side effects which are as yet unknown, and unpredictable
- RBV may not be effective at treating my cancer, but is unlikely to worsen my cancer

Monitoring for Side Effects

I understand that:

- while receiving RBV, I will be closely monitored to ensure safety, and for effectiveness of the treatment. This will consist of a various combinations of routine check-ups, lab tests, and imaging studies which may be as follows:
 - Blood tests (such as CBC, Na, K, Cl, Ca, BUN, creatinine, AST, ALT, ALP, LDH, bilirubin, INR, albumin, glucose, ceruloplasmin and tumour markers)
 - ECG (if needed)
 - Urinalysis (if needed)
 - Imaging studies (such as Ultrasound, CT scan, MRI or PET scan)
- the frequency of tests will depend on the nature of my cancer, my age, my underlying medical conditions, my concurrent medications and other factors
- in most cases, a detailed assessment and tests will be done at the start of treatment, and monthly after that
- basic tests will be performed every week

Reproductive Risks – for women

I understand that:

- I should not become pregnant while taking RBV, because the effects of RBV on an unborn baby are not know
- I should not breastfeed a baby while receiving RBV
- reliable birth control approved by my family doctor must be used while receiving RBV (if applicable)

Reproductive Risks – for men

I understand that:

- I should not father a baby while taking RBV
- reliable birth control approved by my family doctor must be used while receiving RBV (if applicable)

I acknowledge that my decision to undergo the RBV treatment is entirely voluntary. I understand and appreciate that I may discontinue the RBV treatment at any time. My decision to discontinue

RBV treatment will not affect my medical care. I further understand and appreciate that the RBV treatment may be terminated if the medical staff so determine that it is in my best medical interests.

I understand that Medicor is owned by a family member of the Medical Director. I understand that any diagnostic tests or treatment provided by the Medical Director and/or Medicor (including RBV treatment) will only be performed for my benefit, and that I have a choice of where I may obtain such diagnostic tests or treatments.

I understand that the results of the RBV treatment are not guaranteed. I acknowledge that no guarantee or assurance has been made by anyone regarding the RBV treatment for which I have requested and authorized.

I have been given the opportunity to read this form and discuss it with the medical staff, and to ask any questions I may have. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I voluntarily consent to the performance of the RBV treatment and I accept all of the risks associated with it.

Costs

I understand that I am responsible for the cost of the RBV for my treatment, as it is not funded by Ontario Drug Benefits (it may be funded by private medical insurance). I understand that I am also responsible for the cost of any related drugs that are prescribed for my treatment, or to reduce RBV side effects, since they may not be funded under Ontario Drug Benefits (or private medical insurance). I will also be responsible for the costs of any tests that may be necessary but are not covered under my health insurance.

_____	_____	_____
Patient's Signature	Printed Name	Date

_____	_____	_____
Witness' Signature	Printed Name	Date

_____	_____	_____
Medicor Staff Signature	Printed Name	Date



Telemedicine and Email Policy

At Medicor we are pleased to offer telemedicine / email communications to our patients. Communicating information by email can be very convenient. Email and telemedicine are generally not covered by provincial health insurance in Canada.

Medicor has an optional private monthly telemedicine plan to help make email and telemedicine more affordable. The **monthly fee is \$385** and covers the following:

- Email / phone / fax new prescriptions and repeat prescriptions (in Canada) – up to 10 per month
- General email medical advice (non-urgent) – up to 20 emails per month
- Telemedicine assessments (by email, non-urgent) – up to 10 per month
- Fax / email copies of test results to patients – up to 10 per month
- Completion of simple 1 page forms – up to 2 per month

Individual services are available to all patients and are billed according to the list below.

Individual Services	Cost
Phone / fax / email a new prescription or repeat prescription (up to 5 drugs)	\$20
Phone / fax / email copies of test results to patients (per report)	\$20
Phone / email / telemedicine assessment and medical advice (non-urgent)	\$50 and up ¹
Phone discussion with patient's other doctor(s), at patient's request	\$50 and up ¹
Forms completion	\$50 and up ¹
Research into specific treatments (by patient request) ²	\$50 and up ¹
Disability Tax Credit form	\$75
CPP Disability Benefits application	\$100

¹ - Billed at a rate of \$450 per hour of physician time (minimum \$50 per service).

² - For Canadian patients: research can be done at no charge during office visits only, strictly limited by available appointment time.

Patients may change or cancel service plan at any time according to the Medicor Cancellation Policy (see Payment Authorization form). Service plans are also subject to cancellation at the discretion of Medicor Cancer Centres Inc.

For Canadian patients (except Québec), some email / telemedicine services are now **free** (paid by the government). You may obtain these free services at Medicor if certain conditions are met:

- 1) Your cancer is metastatic or considered to be incurable
- 2) Your Medicor physician is the main physician providing ongoing quality-of- life enhancing care (which may include gentle medicines such as DCA, TM or LDN).

See table below.

Free (by email / phone)	Payment Required (by email / phone)
Ordering tests and interpreting test results	Assessment of new problems
Arranging for assessments, procedures or therapy	Prescriptions (new or repeats)
Coordinating community and hospital care	Routine forwarding of lab reports / test results
Discussion with and providing advice regarding the above (when medically necessary)	
Supplies and personnel related to all of the above	

If you meet the conditions listed, you may obtain the free services by selecting “Yes”. Please check one of the boxes below.

Yes, I would like Medicor physician Dr. Akbar Khan to be my primary physician who is regularly providing quality-of-life enhancing care. This allows me to obtain the **free** services listed on the left side of the table above. I have a valid health card from any province in Canada (except Québec).

No, I already have a family physician who is in charge of providing quality-of-life enhancing care. I understand that I will have to pay a fee if I ask my Medicor physician for any of the services listed in the table above. I have the **option** of starting the Medicor monthly email plan. If I come to the office **in person**, I can obtain these services at **no charge**. I have a valid health card from any province in Canada (except Québec).

Note: Québec patients are excluded because the Québec government will not automatically pay for their medical care in Ontario. Québec patients are responsible for payment of all medical services up front and may apply to the Ministère de la Santé for reimbursement.

General information

Communicating by email can be very convenient, but it creates some issues which you should be aware of:

- The privacy and security of email communication cannot be guaranteed.
- Email can be forwarded, intercepted, circulated, stored or even changed without the knowledge or permission of Medicor or the patient.
- Email senders may accidentally misaddress an email, resulting in it being sent to unintended and unknown recipients.
- Even after the sender and recipient have deleted their copies of the email, back-up copies may exist on a computer or in cyberspace.
- Emails can introduce viruses into a computer system, and potentially disrupt the computer (Medicor does use anti-virus software on all of its computers).

Medicor will use reasonable means to protect the security and confidentiality of email information sent and received. Due to the issues outlined above, Medicor requests that you understand the following:

- Emails to or from you form part of your medical record, and may be printed or saved electronically by Medicor. Other individuals authorized to access the medical record will have access to those emails.
- Emails may be forwarded internally if necessary to those involved in diagnosis, treatment, reimbursement or health care operations. Medicor will not forward emails to independent third parties without your written consent, except as authorized or required by law.

- Medicor will try to read and respond promptly to emails, but we cannot guarantee that any particular email will be read and responded to within any particular period of time. **You should not use email for medical emergencies or other time-sensitive matters.**
- Email communication is not a substitute for clinical examination. You are responsible for following up on the physician's email and for scheduling appointments with the Medicor doctor or your other doctor(s) when it is appropriate.
- If your email requests or requires a response from Medicor and you have not received a response within a reasonable time period, it is your responsibility to follow up to determine whether the intended recipient received the email and when the recipient will respond.
- You should not use email for communication regarding sensitive medical information, such as sexually transmitted disease, mental health, or substance abuse. Similarly, Medicor will not generally discuss such matters by email (there may be rare exceptions).
- You are responsible for informing Medicor of any types of information you do not want to be sent by email.
- Medicor is not responsible for information loss due to technical failures.
- Emails will not be encrypted.

Instructions for Communication by Email

To communicate by email, please do the following:

- Limit or avoid using an employer's computer.
- Inform Medicor of any changes in your email address.
- Include in the email: 1) patient name
2) a description in the email's subject line (e.g., "prescription renewal")
- Review the email to make sure it is clear and that all needed information is provided before sending to Medicor.
- Take precautions to preserve the confidentiality of emails.

Should you require immediate assistance, or if your condition appears serious or rapidly worsens, you should not rely on email. Rather, you should call Medicor for advice or an appointment, call your family doctor or specialist, go to the nearest hospital Emergency Department, or take other appropriate action.

*Yes, I would like to start the Medicor telemedicine monthly plan (\$385/month) **OPTIONAL***

No, I do not want to start the Medicor telemedicine monthly plan at this time. I have the option to start this plan in the future.

I have read and understood this telemedicine and email policy.

Patient's Signature
(or legal substitute)

Printed Name

Date