

**MYÉLOME  
CANADA**



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**Uniquely devoted to the Canadian myeloma community**

## Thalidomide Receives Notice of Compliance from Health Canada

Myeloma Canada is pleased to announce that on August 4, 2010 Celgene received a Notice of Compliance (NOC) from Health Canada authorizing the sale of Thalomid® (thalidomide capsules) in Canada.

The Health Canada decision, however, is for one specific indication: the treatment of newly-diagnosed myeloma patients who are 65 years of age or over (i.e. non-transplant eligible) in combination with a chemotherapy agent and a steroid, such as the melphalan, prednisone, thalidomide (MPT) regimen.

A few months will be required before the drug will be commercially available through pharmacies that are registered with RevAid®, the controlled distribution program that is currently used for Revlimid®.

If you are presently receiving Thalomid via the Health Canada Special Access Program (SAP) and are eligible for the CANTAP financial assistance program, nothing changes until further notice. If you are currently paying for thalidomide but are covered by a private group insurance plan, a RevAid representative will help you determine whether your private insurance will pay for the drug once it becomes commercially available.

As the drug was just approved for sale in Canada last week, it is not yet listed on any provincial formulary. This means that if you are currently covered by a provincial drug program, your plan will not pay for Thalomid until such time as it is added to your provincial formulary. Thalomid will be reviewed by provinces like any other drug and they will each then decide whether or not to add it to their formulary. If added, it is likely that it will only be reimbursed for its approved indication, indicated above.

Myeloma Canada will provide additional details once they become available.

For additional information, call RevAid at 1-888-RevAid1 (1-888-738-2431) or visit [www.RevAid.ca](http://www.RevAid.ca).

You can also visit the Health Canada website at [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/activit/fs-fi/thalidomide\\_fs\\_fd-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/activit/fs-fi/thalidomide_fs_fd-eng.php) to view Health Canada's Fact Sheet on THALOMID.