

Key messages pCPA negotiations for Kalydeco and Orkambi

- 1) Canadians with cystic fibrosis are one step closer to gaining access to a suite of life-changing treatments. The pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) and Vertex Pharmaceuticals have agreed to begin negotiations on the drugs Orkambi and Kalydeco.
- 2) Negotiations mean that our public drug plans, provided by the federal, provincial and territorial governments, have agreed to enter negotiations with the manufacturer Vertex. The goal of these negotiations is to come to an agreement on price, which we hope will lead to improved public coverage of Kalydeco and Orkambi.
- 3) Cystic Fibrosis Canada hopes that these negotiations will help facilitate an application from the manufacturer to Health Canada in the near future for the game-changing drug Trikafta, the biggest advancement in medicine in the history of the disease.
- 4) For any drug to be marketed in Canada it must go through the Canadian drug review processes, and Trikafta has yet to start this journey. These processes are not quick; they could take years to complete. Cystic fibrosis is a progressive, fatal disease. Canadians with CF can't afford to wait.
- 5) We need our regulatory, review and reimbursement bodies to fast-track approval and reimbursement decision-making with respect to Trikafta. If the drug is not fast-tracked, it could take many years for it to work its way through our duplicative and onerous system. CF is a progressive, fatal disease. People with CF don't have time to wait.
- 7) Provincial governments must do their part to fast track access to Trikafta but also provide coverage for Kalydeco and Orkambi. There is no time limit on pCPA negotiations. They could go quickly, or they could go slowly. This is why we must continue to pressure our provincial governments and Vertex to get to an agreement fast.
- 8) Other developed countries have provided access to breakthrough drugs, including precision medicines through a fast-tracked process. Trikafta is approved for sale in the United States and is fast-tracked for review in the UK as well as under review in Europe. However, Canada does not have a clear fast-track process, so we must demand one.
- 9) We must continue to call on federal and provincial governments and Vertex to work together to fast-track access to Trikafta. There must be a collaborative effort to ensure a pathway to access comes quickly for those who need it now.
- 10) Canadians with CF should not have to wait years for access to this life changing medicine. Some have already waited too long for access to Kalydeco and Orkambi. Some lost their lives waiting.