



What BCAN is doing to address the BCG shortage

BCAN is deeply concerned about the current shortage in BCG treatments for bladder cancer patients. BCG has been a standard of care for many bladder cancer patients for decades. This is not the first shortage of this essential treatment. As the sole advocacy group for bladder cancer patients in the U.S., BCAN wants our community to know our current activities and actions and those in planning to remedy the situation:

- We've met with key contacts at the Center for Biologic Evaluation and Research for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This office monitors and regulates drugs such as BCG. We discussed immediate actions and are working to help support long-term solutions to get us through this crisis.
- We've met with Merck (the company that produces BCG) to let them know that patients and doctors have real concerns. We will keep you updated as news becomes available.
- BCAN is meeting with members of our Scientific Advisory Board, representatives from the American Urology Association (AUA), the Society of Urologic Oncologists (SUO), and with other groups this week to discuss alternatives to BCG treatments and other actions we can take.

The conversations with the FDA and Merck have been positive and will be ongoing. We will report to you any actionable information as it becomes available.

What can patients, families, caregivers, doctors, healthcare providers, and others do about the BCG shortage?

You can voice your concerns to those in a position to make changes at the FDA and Merck, to help them better understand the gravity of this shortage and its impact on bladder cancer patients.

1. Contact the FDA

Call 1-800-835-4709 or email ocod@fda.hhs.gov

Tell them your story, share your experience with the shortage. If you or your doctor have experienced any difficulties in obtaining BCG, let them know. Ask what the FDA will be doing to remedy the situation. Be polite, firm, and please don't use profanity.

2. Contact Merck's National Service Center

Call 1-800-444-2080

Tell them your story, share your experience with the shortage(s) (past if applicable, and the current 2019 shortage.) Describe any difficulties you or your doctor have experienced in obtaining BCG. Note whether you are being treated in a community practice or larger academic hospital. Ask what Merck is doing to remedy the situation. Be polite, firm, and please don't use profanity.

3. Report back to BCAN

Email Communications@BCAN.org and let us know the response and reactions you received.

4. Look for more actions from BCAN.

BCAN will post information and action items here: www.BCAN.org/2019-bcg-shortage-bladder-cancer