

## DOXOrubicin, Cyclophosphamide (AC 60/600) 21 day followed by weekly PACLitaxel (80) and weekly Trastuzumab Therapy (AC-TH)

**Note: There is an option for Dose Dense DOXOrubicin, cyclophosphamide – PACLitaxel (14 days) and trastuzumab therapy described in protocol NCCP- 00316.**

### INDICATIONS FOR USE:

INDICATION	ICD10	Regimen Code	*Reimbursement Indicator
Adjuvant Treatment of HER2 positive, High Risk Node Negative or Node Positive Breast Cancer.	C50	00432a	
Neoadjuvant Treatment of HER2 positive, High Risk Node Negative or Node Positive Breast Cancer.	C50	00432b	

*If a reimbursement indicator (e.g. ODMS, CDS<sup>1</sup>) is not defined, the drug and its detailed indication have not been assessed through the formal HSE reimbursement process.*

### TREATMENT:

*The starting dose of the drugs detailed below may be adjusted downward by the prescribing clinician, using their independent medical judgement, to consider each patients individual clinical circumstances.*

DOXOrubicin and cyclophosphamide are administered once every 21 days for four cycles (one cycle = 21 days) followed by PACLitaxel and trastuzumab once every 7 days for 12 weeks.

Following completion of the 12 weeks, trastuzumab 6mg/kg (ref NCCP protocol 00200 Trastuzumab monotherapy-21days) every 21 days to complete one year of trastuzumab therapy may be given.

Facilities to treat anaphylaxis MUST be present when trastuzumab is administered

### 4 Cycles of DOXOrubicin/Cyclophosphamide (Cycles 1-4 of treatment)

Order of Admin.	Day	Drug	Dose	Route	Diluent & Rate	Cycle
1	1	DOXOrubicin	60mg/ m <sup>2</sup>	IV push	N/A	Repeat every 21 days for cycle 1-4
2	1	Cyclophosphamide	600mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV infusion*	100 to 250ml 0.9% sodium chloride over 20min to 1 hr	Repeat every 21 days for cycle 1-4

\* Cyclophosphamide may also be administered as an IV bolus over 5-10mins

Lifetime cumulative dose of DOXOrubicin is 450mg/m<sup>2</sup>

**In establishing the maximal cumulative dose of an anthracycline, consideration should be given to the risk factors outlined below<sup>11</sup> and to the age of the patient.**

NCCP Protocol: AC (60-600) and Weekly TH Therapy	Published: 23/10/2017 Review: 23/10/2019	Version number: 1
Tumour Group: Breast NCCP Protocol Code: 00432	ISMO Contributor: Prof Maccon Keane	Page 1 of 7
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## 4 Cycles of PACLitaxel/Trastuzumab (Cycles 5-8 of treatment)

Day	Drug	Dose	Route	Diluent & Rate	Cycle
1, 8, 15	PACLitaxel	80mg/m <sup>2</sup>	IV infusion	250 to 500ml 0.9% sodium chloride or glucose 5% over 1hr	Repeat every 21 days for cycle 5-8
1	Trastuzumab	4mg/kg	IV infusion Observe post infusion*	250ml 0.9% sodium chloride over 90min	5, day 1 <b>only</b>
8, 15	Trastuzumab	2mg/kg	IV infusion Observe post infusion*	If no adverse reactions use 250ml 0.9% sodium chloride over 30min	5, day 8 and day 15 <b>only</b>
1, 8, 15	Trastuzumab	2mg/kg	IV infusion Observe post infusion*	If no adverse reactions use 250ml 0.9% sodium chloride over 30min	Repeat every 21 days for cycle 6-8
PACLitaxel must be supplied in non-PVC containers and administered using non-PVC giving sets and through an in-line 0.22 µm filter with a microporous membrane.					
PACLitaxel should be diluted to a concentration of 0.3-1.2mg/ml.					
*Recommended Observation period: Patients should be observed for at least six hours after the start of the first infusion and for two hours after the start of the subsequent infusions for symptoms like fever and chills or other infusion-related symptoms. Any deviation should be noted in local policies.					
** Trastuzumab is incompatible with glucose solution					

Following completion of the 12 weeks of PACLitaxel/trastuzumab treatment, trastuzumab 6mg/kg (Reference NCCP protocol 00200 Trastuzumab monotherapy-21 days) every 21 days to complete one year of trastuzumab therapy should be given.

### ELIGIBILITY:

- Indications as above.
- HER2 overexpression or HER2 gene amplification as determined by an accurate and validated assay
- ECOG status 0-2.

### EXCLUSIONS:

- Hypersensitivity to DOXOrubicin, cyclophosphamide, PACLitaxel, trastuzumab or any of the excipients.
- Congestive heart failure (LVEF < 50%) or other or other clinically significant cardiac disease (history of symptomatic ventricular arrhythmias, congestive heart failure or myocardial infarction within previous 12 months).
- Baseline neutrophil count < 1.5 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L
- Severe hepatic impairment
- Breast feeding

### PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY:

The treatment plan must be initiated by a Consultant Medical Oncologist.

NCCP Protocol: AC (60-600) and Weekly TH Therapy	Published: 23/10/2017 Review: 23/10/2019	Version number: 1
Tumour Group: Breast NCCP Protocol Code: 00432	ISMO Contributor: Prof Maccon Keane	Page 2 of 7
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## TESTS:

### Baseline tests:

- FBC, renal and liver profile
- ECG
- MUGA or ECHO (LVEF > 50% to administer DOXOrubicin) if >65 years or if clinically indicated

### Regular tests:

- FBC, renal and liver profile
- Cardiac function (MUGA or ECHO) every 12 weeks. Where there are signs of cardiac impairment four to eight weekly checks may be more appropriate.

### Disease monitoring:

Disease monitoring should be in line with the patient's treatment plan and any other test/s as directed by the supervising Consultant.

## DOSE MODIFICATIONS:

- Any dose modification should be discussed with a Consultant
- If the patient misses a dose of trastuzumab by one week or less, then the usual maintenance dose of 2mg/kg should be given as soon as possible. Do not wait until the next planned cycle. Subsequent maintenance doses should then be given according to the previous schedule.
- If the patient misses a dose of trastuzumab by more than one week, a re-loading dose of trastuzumab (4 mg/kg) should be given over approximately 90 minutes, at the discretion of the clinician. Subsequent trastuzumab maintenance doses (2 mg/kg) should then be given weekly from that point.

## Haematological:

**Table 1: Dose modifications for cycles of DOXOrubicin cyclophosphamide only**

ANC ( $\times 10^9$ /L)		Platelets ( $\times 10^9$ /L)	Dose (Both Drugs)
$\geq 1.0$	and	$\geq 100$	100%
$< 1.0$	and	$\geq 100$	Delay for 1 week (or longer if needed), then give 100% dose if ANC > 1.0 and platelets $\geq 100$ .
$\geq 1.0$	and	$< 100$	Delay for 1 week (or longer if needed), then give 100% dose if ANC > 1.0 and platelets $\geq 100$ . Dose reduce to 75% after a second delay.

**Table 2: For cycles of PACLitaxel only**

ANC ( $\times 10^9$ /L)		Platelets	Dose	Dose after neutropenic sepsis
$\geq 1.5$	and	$> 90$	80mg/m <sup>2</sup>	65mg/m <sup>2</sup>
1-1.49	or	70-90	65mg/m <sup>2</sup>	50mg/m <sup>2</sup>
$< 1$	or	$< 70$	Delay and reduce next dose to 65mg/m <sup>2</sup> or add G-CSF	Delay

NCCP Protocol: AC (60-600) and Weekly TH Therapy	Published: 23/10/2017 Review: 23/10/2019	Version number: 1
Tumour Group: Breast NCCP Protocol Code: 00432	ISMO Contributor: Prof Maccon Keane	Page 3 of 7
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## Renal and Hepatic Impairment:

**Table 3: Dose modification of DOXOrubicin, Cyclophosphamide and PACLitaxel in Renal and hepatic impairment**

Drug	Renal Impairment	Hepatic Impairment
DOXOrubicin	No dose reduction required. Clinical decision in severe impairment	<b>Serum Bilirubin (micromol/L)</b>
		20-51
		51-85
		>85
		If AST 2-3 x normal give 75% If AST > 3 x ULN give 50%
Cyclophosphamide	CrCl (mL/min)	Dose
	>20	100%
	10-20	75%
	<10	50%
PACLitaxel	No dose reductions necessary	See Table 4 below
Trastuzumab	Probably no dose reduction necessary	Probably no dose reduction necessary

**Table 4: Dose modification of PACLitaxel in hepatic Impairment**

ALT		Total bilirubin	Dose of PACLitaxel
< 10xULN	and	≤ 1.25xULN	80mg/m <sup>2</sup>
< 10xULN	and	1.26-2xULN	60mg/m <sup>2</sup>
< 10xULN	and	2.01-5xULN	40mg/m <sup>2</sup>
≥10xULN	and/or	>5xULN	Not recommended

## Non-Haematological Toxicity:

**Table 5: Dose modification schedule for PACLitaxel based on adverse events**

Adverse reactions	Discontinue	Recommended dose modification
Grade 2 motor or sensory neuropathy		Decrease dose by 10mg/m <sup>2</sup> .
All other grade 2 non-haematological toxicity		Hold treatment until toxicity resolves to ≤ grade 1. Decrease subsequent doses by 10mg/m <sup>2</sup> .
≥ Grade 3 reaction	Discontinue	

**Table 6: Trastuzumab dose modification schedule based on adverse events**

Adverse reactions	Discontinue	Recommended dose modification
LVEF drops 10 ejection fraction points from baseline and to below 50%		Withhold treatment. Repeat LVEF after 3 weeks. No improvement or further decline, consider discontinuation. Discuss with consultant and refer to cardiologist.
Symptomatic heart failure	Discontinue	
NCI-CTCAE Grade 4 hypersensitivity reactions	Discontinue	
Haematological		Treatment may continue during periods of reversible, chemotherapy-induced myelosuppression. Monitor carefully for any complications of neutropenia.

NCCP Protocol: AC (60-600) and Weekly TH Therapy	Published: 23/10/2017 Review: 23/10/2019	Version number: 1
Tumour Group: Breast NCCP Protocol Code: 00432	ISMO Contributor: Prof Maccon Keane	Page 4 of 7
<p>The information contained in this document is a statement of consensus of NCCP and ISMO or IHS professionals regarding their views of currently accepted approaches to treatment. Any clinician seeking to apply or consult these documents is expected to use independent medical judgement in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine any patient's care or treatment. Use of these documents is the responsibility of the prescribing clinician, and is subject to HSE's terms of use available at <a href="http://www.hse.ie/eng/Disclaimer">http://www.hse.ie/eng/Disclaimer</a></p> <p><i>This information is valid only on the day of printing, for any updates please check <a href="http://www.hse.ie/NCCPchemoprotocols">www.hse.ie/NCCPchemoprotocols</a></i></p>		

## SUPPORTIVE CARE:

### EMETOGENIC POTENTIAL:

DOXOrubicin cyclophosphamide (AC) cycles: High (**Refer to local policy**).

PACLitaxel and trastuzumab (TH): Low (**Refer to local policy**)

### PREMEDICATIONS:

DOXOrubicin cyclophosphamide (AC) cycles: None usually required

All patients must be premedicated with corticosteroids, antihistamines, and H<sub>2</sub> antagonists prior to PACLitaxel treatment. Table 7 outlines suggested premedications prior to treatment with PACLitaxel

**Table 7: Suggested premedications prior to treatment with PACLitaxel**

Drug	Dose	Administration prior to PACLitaxel
Dexamethasone	10mg IV <sup>a</sup>	30 to 60 minutes
Diphenhydramine <sup>b</sup>	50mg IV	30 to 60 minutes
Cimetidine or ranitidine	300mg IV 50mg IV	30 to 60 minutes
<sup>a</sup> Dose of dexamethasone may be reduced or omitted in the absence of hypersensitivity reaction according to consultant guidance.		
<sup>b</sup> or an equivalent antihistamine e.g. chlorphenamine		

## OTHER SUPPORTIVE CARE:

Prophylactic G-CSF may be used to mitigate the risk of haematological toxicities.

Patients should have an increased fluid intake of 2-3 litres on day 1 to prevent haemorrhagic cystitis associated with cyclophosphamide.

Myalgias and arthralgias may occur with PACLitaxel. Analgesic cover should be considered.

## ADVERSE EFFECTS / REGIMEN SPECIFIC COMPLICATIONS

*The adverse effects listed are not exhaustive. Please refer to the relevant Summary of Product Characteristics for full details.*

Please refer to:

- NCCP Protocol 00252 for information on the adverse effects associated with DOXOrubicin cyclophosphamide therapy
- NCCP protocol 00226 for information on the adverse effects associated with weekly PACLitaxel therapy
- NCCP protocol 00201 for information on the adverse effects associated with trastuzumab therapy.

## DRUG INTERACTIONS:

- CYP3A inhibitors decrease the conversion of cyclophosphamide to both its active and inactive metabolites. Patients should also be counselled with regard to consumption of grapefruit juice.
- CYP3A inducers may also increase the conversion of cyclophosphamide to both its active and inactive metabolites.
- Concurrent administration of calcium channel blockers with DOXOrubicin should be avoided as they may decrease the clearance of DOXOrubicin.
- Risk of drug interactions with CYP3A inhibitors may cause increased concentrations of PACLitaxel. Patients should also be counselled with regard to consumption of grapefruit juice.

NCCP Protocol: AC (60-600) and Weekly TH Therapy	Published: 23/10/2017 Review: 23/10/2019	Version number: 1
Tumour Group: Breast NCCP Protocol Code: 00432	ISMO Contributor: Prof Maccon Keane	Page 5 of 7

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- Risk of drug interactions with CYP3A inducers may cause decreased concentrations of PACLitaxel.
- Current drug interaction databases should be consulted for more information.

## ATC CODE:

DOXOrubicin	L01DB01
Cyclophosphamide	L01AA01
PACLitaxel	L01CD01
Trastuzumab	L01XC03

## REFERENCES:

1. Perez E, Romond EH et al. Four-Year Follow-Up of Trastuzumab Plus Adjuvant Chemotherapy for Operable Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2–Positive Breast Cancer: Joint Analysis of Data From NCCTG N9831 and NSABP B-31. J Clin Oncol 2011;29 (25): 3366-3373.
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3. DOXOrubicin HCl 50mg Powder for Solution for Injection. Summary of Product Characteristics. Accessed March 2017. Available at [http://www.hpra.ie/img/uploaded/swedocuments/LicenseSPC\\_PA0437-026-002\\_03032016152104.pdf](http://www.hpra.ie/img/uploaded/swedocuments/LicenseSPC_PA0437-026-002_03032016152104.pdf)
4. Endoxana Injection 500mg Powder for Solution for Injection. Summary of Product Characteristics Accessed March 2017 Available at [https://www.hpra.ie/img/uploaded/swedocuments/LicenseSPC\\_PA0167-134-003\\_13022012114117.pdf](https://www.hpra.ie/img/uploaded/swedocuments/LicenseSPC_PA0167-134-003_13022012114117.pdf)
5. PACLitaxel. Summary of Product Characteristics. Accessed March 2017. Available [http://www.hpra.ie/img/uploaded/swedocuments/LicenseSPC\\_PA0566-049-001\\_27022017125042.pdf](http://www.hpra.ie/img/uploaded/swedocuments/LicenseSPC_PA0566-049-001_27022017125042.pdf)

Version	Date	Amendment	Approved By
1	23/10/2017		Prof Maccon Keane
2			

Comments and feedback welcome at [oncologydrugs@cancercontrol.ie](mailto:oncologydrugs@cancercontrol.ie).

<sup>i</sup> ODMS – Oncology Drug Management System

CDS – Community Drug Schemes (CDS) including the High Tech arrangements of the PCRS community drug schemes

Further details on the Cancer Drug Management Programme is available at;

<http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/cancer/profinfo/medonc/cdmp/>

NCCP Protocol: AC (60-600) and Weekly TH Therapy	Published: 23/10/2017 Review: 23/10/2019	Version number: 1
Tumour Group: Breast NCCP Protocol Code: 00432	ISMO Contributor: Prof Maccon Keane	Page 6 of 7
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<sup>ii</sup>Cardiotoxicity is a risk associated with anthracycline therapy that may be manifested by early (acute) or late (delayed) effects.

Risk factors for developing anthracycline-induced cardiotoxicity include:

- high cumulative dose, previous therapy with other anthracyclines or anthracenediones
- prior or concomitant radiotherapy to the mediastinal/pericardial area
- pre-existing heart disease
- concomitant use of other potentially cardiotoxic drugs

In establishing the maximal cumulative dose of an anthracycline, consideration should be given to the risk factors above and to the age of the patient

NCCP Protocol: AC (60-600) and Weekly TH Therapy	Published: 23/10/2017 Review: 23/10/2019	Version number: 1
Tumour Group: Breast NCCP Protocol Code: 00432	ISMO Contributor: Prof Maccon Keane	Page 7 of 7
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