

EVOLUTION OF ACCELERATING PATIENT ACCESS – CHARACTERISTICS AND TIMELINES FOR ONTARIO FAST PRODUCTS

INNOVATIVE MEDICINES CANADA AND BIOTECANADA JOINT ONCOLOGY PROJECT TEAM

BACKGROUND:

Ontario's Funding Accelerated for Specific Treatments (FAST) program was announced on October 8, 2025, making it the first jurisdiction in Canada to implement an accelerated public funding model for select high-priority cancer drugs. FAST covers Health Canada-approved oncology drugs reviewed through Project Orbis. FAST provides interim provincial coverage after a positive reimbursement recommendation by Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) and before the conclusion of the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance's (pCPA) price negotiations with manufacturers. FAST aims to accelerate access by up to one year compared to the traditional pathway.

OBJECTIVE:

The National Oncology Project Team, a joint committee of Innovative Medicines Canada (IMC) and BIOTECanada, developed a national assessment tool to track progress of the Ontario FAST program. This study analyzes key CDA-AMC reimbursement recommendation characteristics and listing timelines for products included in the FAST program in the context of accelerating national access for these products.

METHODS:

CDA-AMC oncology reviews expected to have recommendations posted in 2025 were extracted from the reimbursement reviews website. Data was included if the product underwent a Project Orbis review and was publicly listed as an Ontario FAST product. Extracted data included submission-specific dates and reimbursement review recommendation details from the CDA-AMC website, alongside key public listing information from the pCPA website and provincial listing formularies. Data was characterized and analyzed using descriptive qualitative and numeric analysis.

RESULTS:

- Nine products were selected for the Ontario FAST program between October 2025 and May 2026. (See Table 1).
- Sixty-two oncology submissions received CDA-AMC reimbursement recommendations in 2025. Eighteen of these recommendations were for Project Orbis-designated products, of which 13 had recommendations issued in the second half of the year (between July and December 2025). (See Table 2 and Figure 1.)
- Sixty-two per cent of the Project Orbis files with positive CDA-AMC final recommendations (8/13) were selected for the FAST program.
- FAST products were listed in Ontario an average of 53 days after a positive CDA-AMC final recommendation and the pCPA Letter of Intent (LOI) was issued approximately 114 days after the CDA-AMC final recommendation. Comparatively, in 2025, the average time to list oncology products in Ontario after a positive CDA-AMC final recommendation was approximately 300 days. FAST decreased the delay for provincial listing in Ontario by more than 80 per cent. (See Figure 2.)
- Where data was available, provincial listings in other provinces took up to four months longer than in Ontario, with an average delay of three months. (See Figure 2.)
- No products were listed in other jurisdictions before Ontario. (See Figure 2.)
- Incremental Cost-Effectiveness Ratios (ICERs) for FAST products ranged from \$30,000 to \$700,000 Quality-Adjusted Life Year (QALY).

CONCLUSION:

FAST is not only accelerating funding for specific treatments in Ontario but is also a potential catalyst for pan-Canadian access to innovative oncology therapeutics. Ontario is setting the pace for patients in need of high-priority cancer therapies and can serve as a model for other Canadian jurisdictions that are lagging behind in provincial listings.

Based on the data collected on FAST products, no clear patterns emerged among the factors driving product selection.

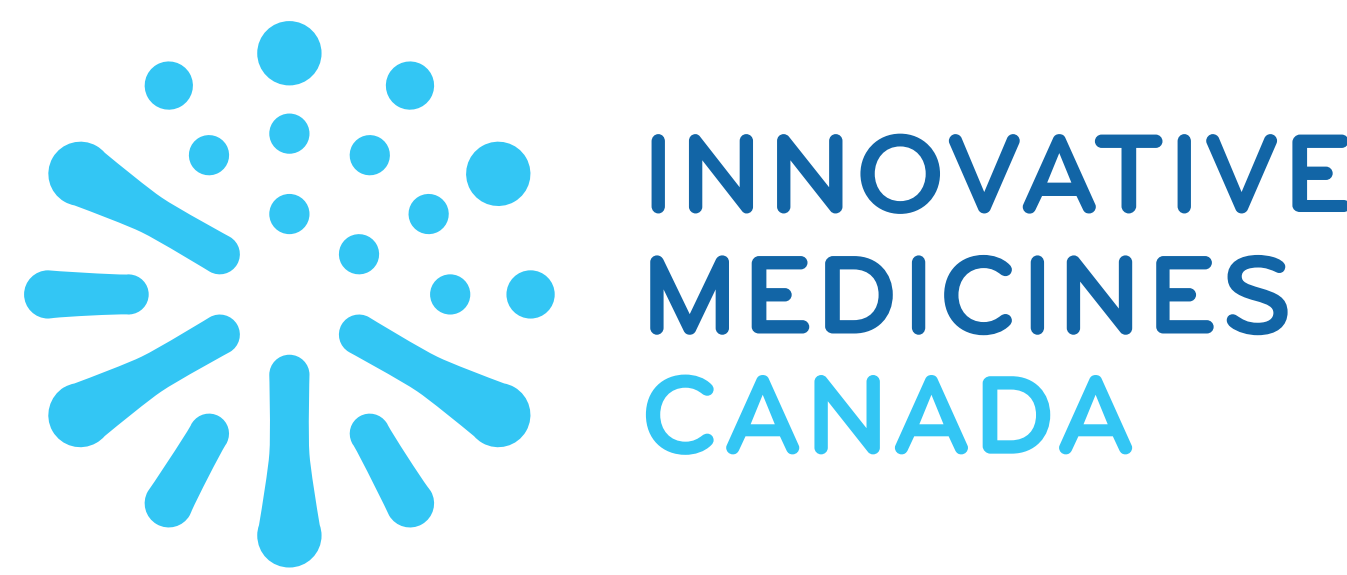


TABLE 1

ONTARIO FAST PRODUCTS ANNOUNCED AS OF SEPTEMBER 2026

BRAND NAME	GENERIC NAME	INDICATION
Itovebi	inavolisib	Advanced or metastatic breast cancer
Opdivo and Yervoy	nivolumab and ipilimumab	Unresectable or advanced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)
Opdivo and Yervoy	nivolumab and ipilimumab	Unresectable or metastatic MSI-H or dMMR colorectal cancer
Nubeqa	darolutamide	Metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer
Calquence	acalabrutinib	Mantle cell lymphoma (MCL)
Scemblix	asciminib	Philadelphia chromosome-positive chronic myeloid leukemia
Tagrisso	osimertinib	Unresectable (stage III) non-small cell lung cancer
Voranigo	vorasidenib	Astrocytoma or oligodendroglioma, IDH1 or IDH2 mutation
Braftovi**	encorafenib	Metastatic colorectal cancer with a BRAF V600E mutation

** DID NOT MEET DATA CUTOFF FOR ANALYSIS.

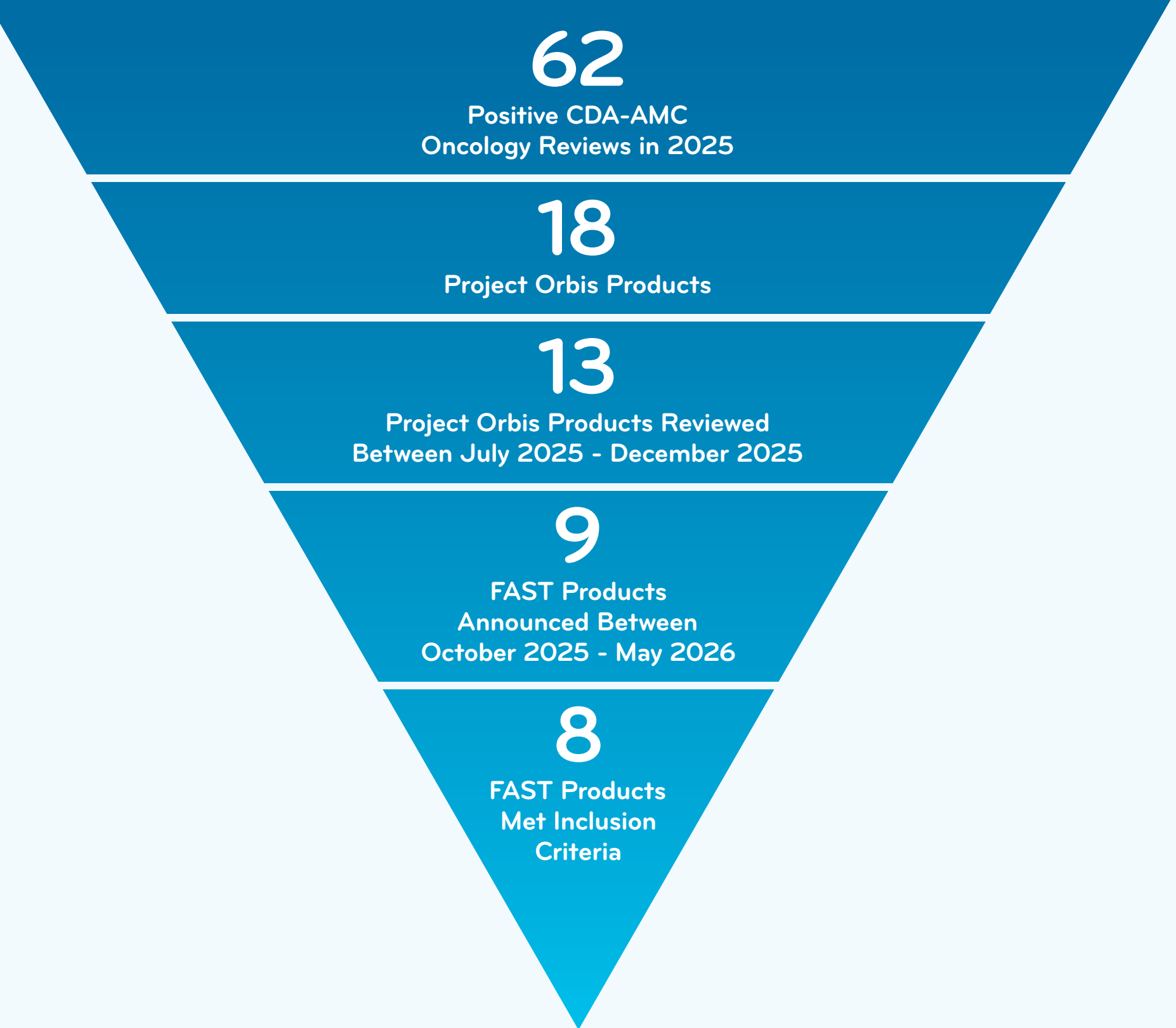
TABLE 2

PROJECT ORBIS FILES WITH POSITIVE FINAL CDA-AMC RECOMMENDATIONS ISSUED BETWEEN JULY AND DECEMBER 2025

BRAND NAME	GENERIC NAME	INDICATION
N/A	cabozantinib	Neuroendocrine tumours
Imfinzi	durvalumab	Limited-stage small cell lung cancer (LS-SCLC)
Tagrisso	osimertinib	Unresectable (stage III) non-small cell lung cancer
Rybrevant	amivantamab	Locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)
Keytruda	pembrolizumab	Cervical cancer
Scemblix	asciminib	Philadelphia chromosome-positive chronic myeloid leukemia
Calquence	acalabrutinib	Mantle cell lymphoma (MCL)
Keytruda	pembrolizumab	Head and neck squamous cell carcinoma
Opdivo and Yervoy	nivolumab and ipilimumab	Unresectable or metastatic MSI-H or dMMR colorectal cancer
Nubeqa	darolutamide	Metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer
Voranigo	vorasidenib	Astrocytoma or oligodendroglioma, IDH1 or IDH2 mutation
Opdivo and Yervoy	nivolumab and ipilimumab	Unresectable or advanced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)
Itovebi	inavolisib	Advanced or metastatic breast cancer

FIGURE 1

ILLUSTRATIVE DIAGRAM OF FAST PRODUCT SELECTION



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ONTARIO FAST PROGRAM

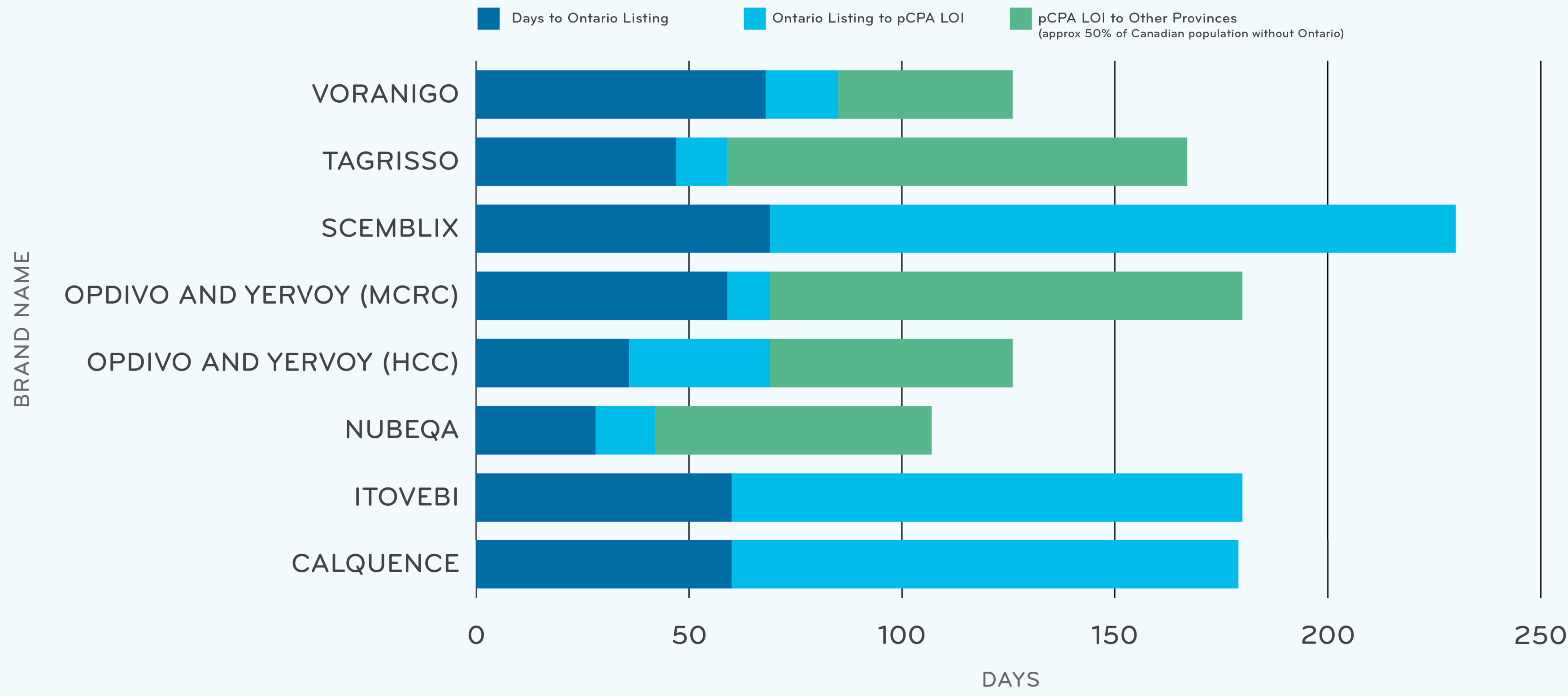
TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE FAST PILOT, A DRUG MUST BE:

- a Project Orbis cancer drug with a positive final CDA-AMC recommendation;
- manufactured by a company that wants to enter into an LOI and funding agreement with Ontario; and
- suitable for the FAST program (the Ontario Ministry of Health assesses each file individually).

The Ontario Ministry of Health may **not** select a drug for the FAST program if the drug is complex (e.g., CAR-T), requires complex negotiations, is eligible for other accelerated public funding pathways, or if funding it under FAST is not in the public interest.

FIGURE 2

DAYS TO ONTARIO LISTING, PCPA LOI & LISTING IN OTHER PROVINCES AFTER FINAL CDA-AMC REIMBURSEMENT RECOMMENDATION



For the eight products with available data, five were listed in other provinces. The blue bar represents the additional time (in days) from the CDA-AMC final recommendation to the Ontario listing. Also shown is the time from the Ontario listing to the pCPA LOI (aqua bar) and from the pCPA LOI to the point at which approximately 50 per cent of eligible patients gain access (green bar).

FIGURE 3

PERCENTAGE OF ORAL VS. IV ADMINISTRATION FOR THE EIGHT PRODUCTS ANALYZED

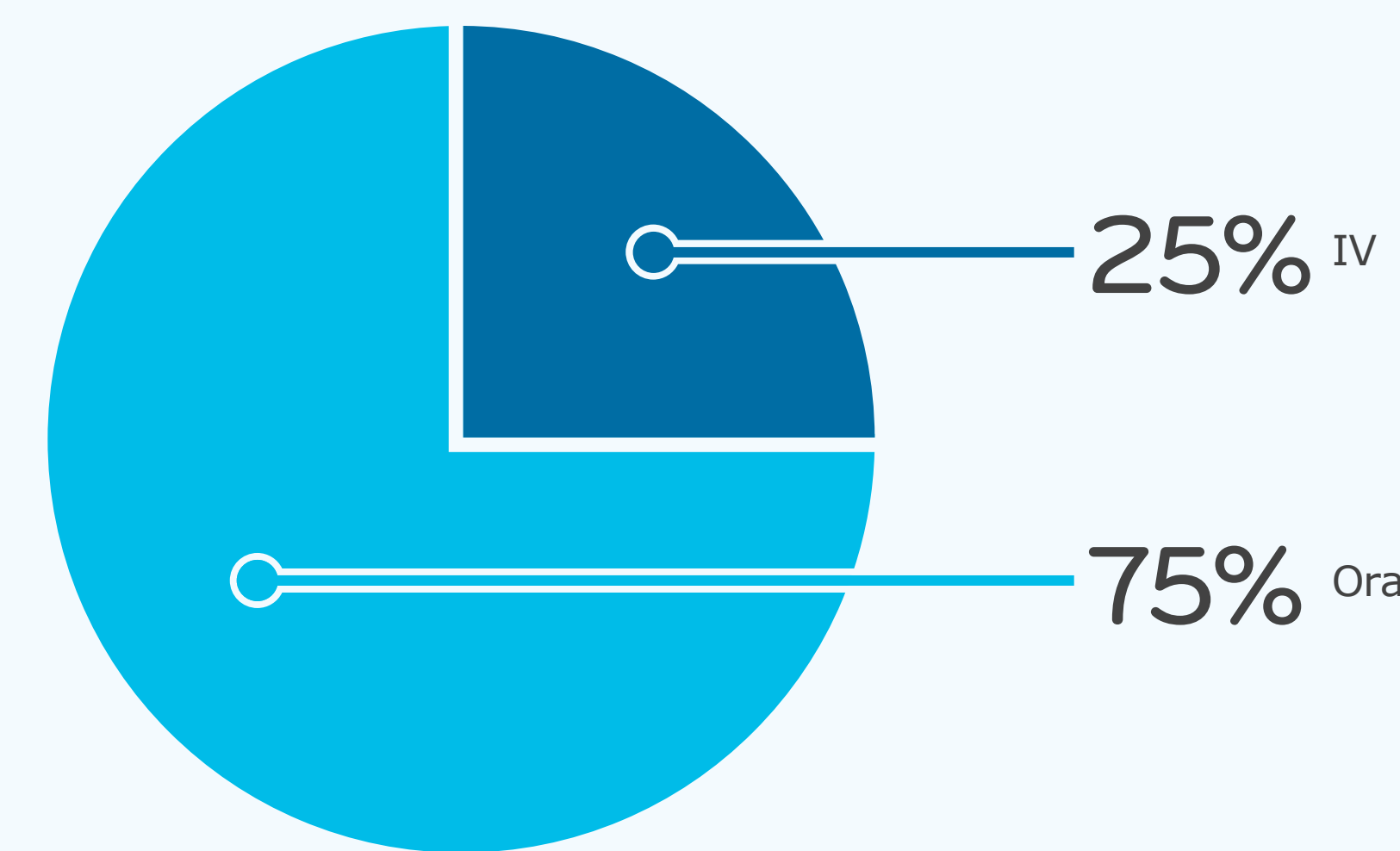
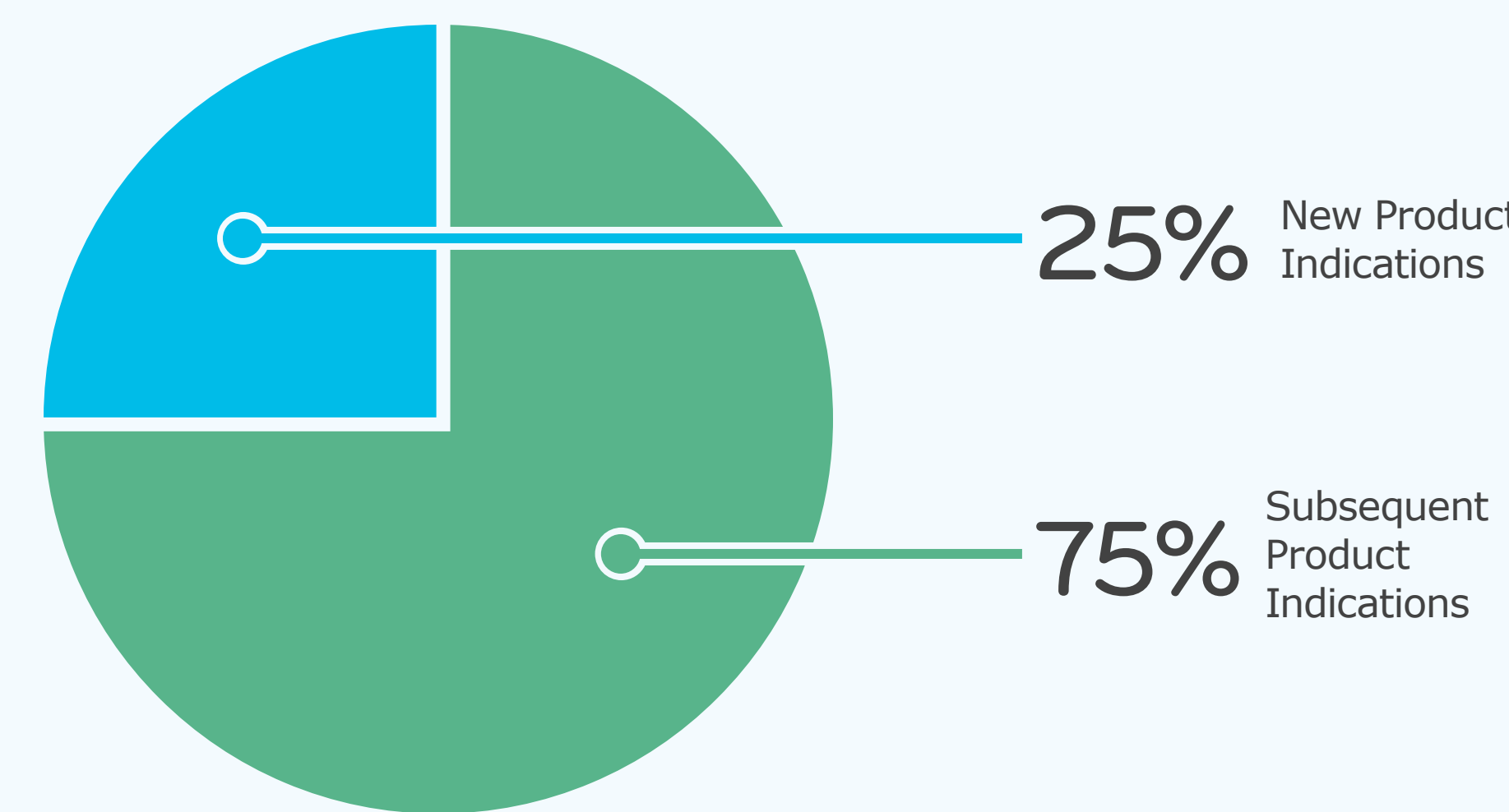


FIGURE 4

PERCENTAGE OF NEW VS. SUBSEQUENT PRODUCT INDICATIONS AT PCPA



REFERENCES:

1. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Oncology Cancer/Hematologic Malignancies Approval Notifications. <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-information-approved-drugs/oncology-cancer-hematologic-malignancies-approval-notifications>. [Accessed April 2026].
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