Dear (Name of your MLA - <https://www.leg.bc.ca/learn-about-us/members> ):

**Re: DUODOPA® therapy for advanced Parkinson’s disease**

I am writing to ask for your support in the public funding of DUODOPA® therapy for people with advanced Parkinson’s disease. The drug is publicly funded in most Canadian provinces, putting British Columbians living with this condition at a detrimental disadvantage by denying them access to a life-changing therapy.

I encourage you to take 5 minutes to watch this video demonstrating the difficulties encountered by two patients who are in desperate need of relief: https://youtu.be/wtyOF9XhQ0A

Yes, DUODOPA® is expensive. It is offered at a cost of $60,000 per year per patient; however, there are very few patients in British Columbia requiring the therapy. The Movement Disorders Clinic at the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, University of British Columbia, estimates there are currently 10 to 12 patients requiring urgent access to this drug. In receiving the DUODOPA® therapy, patients will experience considerable relief of pain; have better control over severe and dangerous balance issues; be removed from the fear of breathing and swallowing issues; and be provided with support with other non-movement (non-motor) problems.

The payoff for the health care system will be fewer hospitalizations, fewer emergency visits and avoidance of early admissions to long term care.

For a number of these patients, access to DUODOPA® therapy has become a life or death issue and a palliative measure. I urge you to work with BC PharmaCare to fund this therapy at least on a case by case basis.

*(If you have a story or a personal connection to the disease, please indicate this here. You can include a statement such as, “If I or (my spouse, parent, sibling) need this therapy, I want to know it will be available for them here in BC.”)*

Sincerely,

(Your name)

cc: Hon. Dr. Terry Lake, Minister of Health, British Columbia (Hlth.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Barbara Walman, Assistant Deputy Minister, Medical Beneficiary and Pharmaceutical Services (Barbara.Walman@gov.bc.ca)

 Jean Blake, Chief Executive Officer, Parkinson Society British Columbia (jblake@parkinson.bc.ca )