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### **3.7. Medical Practitioners—Prescriber IDs & Practitioner Reference IDs**

#### ***General Policy Description***

Each British Columbia pharmacist, physician, surgeon, dentist, podiatrist, veterinarian, midwife, naturopath, optometrist and nurse practitioner on PharmaNet is assigned both a:

- Practitioner Identification Reference code (Pract. ID Ref.) that identifies the licensing body;
- **Practitioner Identification number** (also called a Practitioner ID, Pract. ID, Prescriber ID or College ID) a unique number that identifies the individual practitioner.

The Practitioner Identification number is issued by the licensing body (for example, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia or the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia).

#### ***Policy Details***

##### ***Use of Practitioner IDs***

- All prescriptions must be submitted on PharmaNet with a valid Practitioner ID Reference code and a Practitioner ID (i.e., the ID of the prescriber or, in the case of over-the-counter medications, the pharmacist's ID).
- The Practitioner ID number must be used, not the MSP billing number.

##### ***Out-of-province Practitioner IDs***

- Practitioners from other provinces (except Alberta), are assigned generic Practitioner IDs; PharmaNet does not use the identification numbers issued by their respective colleges.
- Alberta physicians and surgeons do have individual Practitioner IDs on PharmaNet, although there may be some exceptions; Alberta dentists, podiatrists and veterinarians are assigned a generic Practitioner ID.
- Out-of-province practitioners, however, are always assigned valid Practitioner Identification Reference codes to identify the relevant College.

##### ***Practitioner Codes***

- For a claim to adjudicate on PharmaNet, a pharmacist must submit a valid, individual Practitioner ID number for a British Columbia or Alberta practitioner.
- Generic Practitioner IDs are to be used for out-of-province practitioners.
- Exception: Specialists have six-character Practitioner IDs. Use the generic ID 99999 in these cases.

- Please see the list of [Practitioner ID Reference codes and Practitioner ID codes \(identifying the relevant regulatory body\) for Canadian prescribers](#).

### ***Using Practitioner IDs for non-prescription items***

- When submitting claims for non-prescription products, pharmacists may enter their Pharmacist ID in place of the Practitioner ID. If a pharmacist elects to use the Practitioner's ID, the pharmacist must obtain authorization from the practitioner to dispense the item.
- Pharmacists may also need to use their Pharmacist ID in place of a Practitioner ID under other circumstances. For instance, the Pharmacists ID would be used for:
  - claiming non-prescription items eligible for PharmaCare coverage
  - updating a patient medication history with a non-prescription item that is not eligible for PharmaCare coverage
  - dispensing emergency supplies of medication
  - claiming a pharmacist-administered publicly funded vaccination
  - claiming a clinical services fee
  - claiming medical supplies that are eligible for PharmaCare coverage such as insulin pumps.
- Device **providers** should use their own ID only when claiming supplies when they do not have current information on any practitioner responsible for the patient's care.

## ***Procedures***

### ***Procedures for Pharmacists***

#### ***Finding the Pract ID for British Columbia/Alberta Practitioners***

1. Search the local system for an existing practitioner entry.

*Once satisfied the prescriber is a legitimate practitioner, an entry for that prescriber may be created on the local system.*

2. Use the Prescriber Identification transaction (TIP) to search by surname only.  
If too many entries are returned, search by surname and first initial.

*You can use the same transaction to retrieve practitioner identity and practice information by entering the Practitioner ID number and Practitioner ID Reference code, if known.*

3. If you cannot locate the practitioner, call the PharmaNet Help Desk.

*For information on contacting the Help Desk, refer to Section 11, [Contacts for Health Care Practitioners & Providers](#).*

*The Help Desk validates the practitioner name by repeating the name search or by contacting the appropriate college. If necessary, the practitioner can be added to PharmaNet, or the relevant college can be contacted (for B.C. physicians and surgeons only) to have the practitioner added.*

#### ***Adding an Alberta practitioner PharmaNet***

- Please supply the following information to the PharmaNet Help Desk:

- complete practitioner name
- practitioner address
- practitioner gender.

*The Help Desk will ask you to use the generic Practitioner ID (99999) with the ID Reference code 81 in order to fill the prescription. It will contact the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons for confirmation so the physician can be added to PharmaNet.*

## 3.9. Medical Practitioners—Authorized Prescribing

### *Midwife Prescriptions*

- Midwives registered with the College of Midwives of British Columbia (CMBC) are authorized to prescribe a limited number of drugs.
- Schedules A and B of the *Health Professions Act – Midwives Regulation* lists all drugs and substances that a midwife is authorized to prescribe, order or administer. The regulation and its schedules are available in the Standards and Regulations section of the [College of Midwives](#) website.
- Not all CMBC-authorized drugs are PharmaCare benefits.
- To enquire about CMBC bylaws, Schedules A and B or the registration status of any midwife, pharmacists should contact the Registrar of the CMBC.
- Note: PharmaNet does not apply any restrictions that preclude a midwife from prescribing a specific medication. PharmaNet verifies only the practitioner information.

### *Nurse Practitioner Prescriptions*

- Details of the specific medications nurse practitioners may prescribe, and the limits and conditions for prescribing, are set out in the Scope of Practice Standards documents for each type of nurse practitioner (family, adult and pediatric practice).
- The Scope of Practice Standards are available in the Standards & Practice Support section of the [CRNBC website](#).

### *Optometrist Prescriptions*

- As of April 1, 2009, qualified registrants of the College of Optometry of British Columbia are authorized to prescribe medications for the topical treatment of eye disease in accordance with the standards, limits and conditions of practice established by the College of Optometry.
- For further details, refer to “Standards, Limits and Conditions in the Treatment of Eye Disease” in the Legislation section of on the [College of Optometry of British Columbia website](#).
- Note: PharmaNet does not apply any restrictions that preclude an optometrist from prescribing a specific medication. PharmaNet verifies only the practitioner information.

### *Dentist Prescriptions*

- Dentists may prescribe both narcotic and non-narcotic medications for their patients.

### *Podiatrist Prescriptions*

- Podiatrists licensed by the British Columbia Association of Podiatrists may prescribe non-narcotic medications for their patients.

### *Naturopath Prescriptions*

- Naturopathic physicians are authorized to prescribe certain pharmaceutical medicines in accordance with the standards, limits and conditions of practice established by their College.

- Note: PharmaNet does not apply any restrictions that preclude a naturopathic physician from prescribing a specific medication. PharmaNet verifies only the practitioner information.
- For more information on prescribing by naturopathic physicians, visit the [College of Naturopathic Physicians of BC website](#).

### ***Veterinarian Prescriptions***

- Veterinarians may prescribe drugs for animals. However, a drug prescribed for an animal is never a PharmaCare benefit, even if the same drug would be a benefit for a human (e.g., the owner).
- A veterinarian's prescription must be dispensed under the owner's PHN. An animal must never be assigned a PHN.
- Physicians are not permitted to prescribe drugs for animals.

### ***Same drug, same day for pet and pet owner***

- In the rare situation in which a pharmacy fills a prescription for the **same drug** on the **same day** for both a pet and a pet owner:
  - Submit the claim for the **patient (pet owner) first** to ensure the pet owner's medication profile is accurate.
  - If the claim for the pet has already been processed, submit the patient claim with the intervention code UF.
  - If you forget to enter the UF intervention code and the claim is rejected, contact the [College of Pharmacists of BC](#) to correct the problem before you re-submit the prescription claim with the UF code.

### **3.10. Medical Practitioners—Practicing Status and Practitioner Restrictions**

#### *General Description*

- PharmaNet identifies:
  - the practicing status of a prescriber
  - any restrictions that preclude a practitioner from prescribing specific medications (e.g., narcotics or controlled or targeted substances)
- This function identifies all members of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of British Columbia and the College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia.
- Practicing status and prescriber restriction data are supplied by the relevant College via direct, regular loads to the PharmaNet database. Questions regarding the application of practicing status and prescriber restrictions should be addressed to the relevant College.

#### *Policy Details*

- PharmaNet will reject, without adjudication, any claims for prescriptions by non-practicing or unauthorized prescribers.
- Practitioner status for midwives, podiatrists, nurse practitioners, optometrists, naturopaths, veterinarians and members of the Alberta College of Physicians & Surgeons are not identified by this function. These prescribers are monitored through retrospective audits.
- When a pharmacist performs a search for a practitioner using the Practitioner ID, PharmaNet responds with the practitioner information and the practicing status.
- When a pharmacist searches for a practitioner using the practitioner name, only information on matching practitioners who have practicing status is returned.

## 3.11. Medical Practitioners—BC Prescription Review Program

### *General Description*

The BC Prescription Review Program, which incorporates the former Controlled Prescription Program, periodically reviews drugs with a potential for misuse.

Under this program, information on certain drugs is downloaded automatically from the PharmaNet database to a drug information database maintained by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of B.C. The College uses the information to identify and review potentially inappropriate prescribing, multi-doctoring, drug diversion and opportunities for physician education.

### *Details*

#### *Drugs Requiring Use of a Duplicate Prescription*

- The Prescription Review Program, in place since 1990, maintains a list of opioids for which a duplicate prescription is required.
- The College of Physicians and Surgeons requires that one copy of its duplicate form be retained by the prescribing physician and the other copy be retained by the pharmacy.
- Information on the drugs requiring use of the duplicate form, including a list of the drugs, is available in the [Prescription Review Program section](#) of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC website.

#### *Non-Duplicate Opioids*

- The Prescription Review Program also reviews the clinical use of non-duplicate opioids and benzodiazepines.
- A special prescription pad is not required for these drugs.