



For British Columbia's PharmaNet Users

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Optometrists Authorized to Prescribe Topical Medications for the Treatment of Eye Disease



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.

Submitting prescription claims when the prescriber is an optometrist—When submitting claims for topical medications prescribed by optometrists, ensure that the claim information includes the:

- Practitioner ID Reference Code **94** and
- Optometrist's 5-digit College of Optometry of BC license number.

Note: PharmaNet does not apply any restrictions that preclude an optometrist from prescribing a specific medication. PharmaNet verifies only the practitioner information.

Need more information?—For more information on prescribing by optometrists, visit the College of Optometrists of BC website at www.optometrybc.com.

Access to PharmaNet Transactions and Data Available to B.C. Sites Only

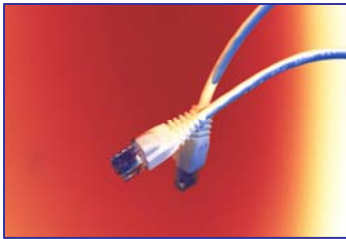
To comply with the terms of British Columbia's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (RSBC 1996) and *Personal Information Protection Act* (SBC 2003 C. 63), access to PharmaNet will be granted only to sites located in British Columbia.

Any online PharmaNet claim must be processed by the B.C. site (that is, it cannot be processed remotely from another location) and any personal information derived from that claim, rather than directly from the patient, must remain in B.C.

These restrictions are needed to ensure patient privacy is protected according to B.C. legislation.

The use of PharmaNet is not intended as a substitute for professional judgment. Information on PharmaNet is not exhaustive and cannot be relied upon as complete. The absence of a warning about a drug or drug combination is not an indication that the drug or drug combination is safe, appropriate or effective in any given patient. Health care professionals should confirm information obtained from PharmaNet, and ensure no additional relevant information exists, before making patient care decisions.

New Pharmacies—Ensuring Timely PharmaNet Connection



If you are opening a new pharmacy, be sure to notify the College of Pharmacists **at least 50 business days** prior to your planned opening date. This lead time is needed for:

- the College to approve the necessary documentation and advise PharmaCare of your opening date, and
- for PharmaCare to arrange to connect your pharmacy to PharmaNet.

Step 1 – The Pharmacy contacts the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia

Before contacting PharmaCare to begin the process of connecting your pharmacy to PharmaNet, the College must:

- receive and approve all documentation related to your application for a new pharmacy (for a full list of the required documents, please refer to the *Pharmacy Licensure in British Columbia - Information Guide and Resources* document available on the College of Pharmacists of BC website at www.bcparmacists.org/library/E-Registration_Licensure/E-3_Pharmacy/5033-Guide-CommunityPcyLicensure.pdf).
- receive payment of your license fee.

Step 2 – The College contacts PharmaCare at Health Insurance BC

Once it has approved all documentation and received your licence fees, the College notifies PharmaCare (administered by Health Insurance BC). Health Insurance BC coordinates the installation of telecommunications equipment (lines, modem and router) to a demarcation point within your pharmacy or building. The waiting period for the installation and connection normally requires 45 days of the 50 business days notice period referred to above.

Step 3 – Pharmacy prepares site for PharmaNet connection

It is the pharmacy owner's responsibility to ensure that all internal wiring, conduits and power are in place to allow connection to the pharmacy demarcation point. Depending on the distance from the demarcation point to the pharmacy, different cabling options may be appropriate. Please discuss the options with your telecommunications supplier.

Do you have questions regarding the specifications for installation of the telecommunications lines, router and modem? Contact the PharmaCare Information Support Coordinator, Health Insurance BC at 604-683-7151 (in Vancouver) or 1-800-663-7100 (the rest of B.C.).

Step 4 – Pharmacy opens and PharmaNet connection is activated

You will be authorized to open when all the pre-opening requirements have been completed and approved.

Your connection to PharmaNet is activated when the College notifies PharmaCare that it has received your signed *Acknowledgement of Completion of the Confidentiality Procedures*.