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QuickLinks

Prosthetic and Orthotic Program — Exchange Rate Update 1

Publicly-Funded Vaccines and Antivirals — Updates and Reminders 2

NSAIDs — Educational Materials Now Available..... 2

Special Services Fees..... 2

Low Cost Alternative (LCA) / Reference Drug Program (RDP) 3

Low Cost Alternative (LCA) / Reference Drug Program (RDP) Booklet—Changes..... 3

Non-Benefits 5

PROSTHETIC AND ORTHOTIC PROGRAM — EXCHANGE RATE UPDATE

New U.S. Exchange rate – \$1.0306*

*Based on the [Bank of Canada](http://www.bankofcanada.com) rate at the close of business on January 13, 2010.

The price list for prosthetic components is reviewed regularly and adjusted, as needed, based on the posted close of business U.S. Exchange rate published by the Bank of Canada.

In times of significant fluctuation, rates are reviewed and adjusted whenever the rate changes by more than five cents and remains at a variance of five cents or more for at least five working days.

**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.**



PUBLICLY-FUNDED VACCINES AND ANTIVIRALS — UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Update —Batching claims for publicly-funded vaccines and antivirals can delay payment. Payment schedules for these products differs from that for regular prescription claims, so submitting claims as a batch near month’s end can mean missing the regular reporting date, delaying payment until the following reporting period.

Update — As mentioned in our previous newsletter, pharmacists can charge visitors to Canada and Canadian residents from outside B.C. for the injection of H1N1 vaccine. However, Canadians seeking vaccine by a pharmacist should be advised that the administration of the vaccine is free if they visit a clinic or a physician’s office.

Reminder — When submitting claims for publicly-funded vaccines:

- Use the Product Identification Numbers provided in [PharmaCare Newsletter 09-015](#).
- Do not enter a drug cost or fee.
- Instead of the usual prescriber ID, use your own College of Pharmacists of BC ID.

NSAIDs — EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS NOW AVAILABLE

As previously announced in the [January 26, 2010](#) PharmaCare Newsletter, effective **March 1, 2010**, PharmaCare will adjust the reference price for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). The reference price will be based on ibuprofen 2400 mg/day rather than naproxen 1000 mg/day.

To support optimal prescribing of NSAIDs, coverage policy educational materials for health care professionals and patients are available on our website at: www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/prescribe.html.

SPECIAL SERVICES FEES

The number of Special Services fees that PharmaCare paid each month over the past year:

Jan 20101,731	Sep 2009 2,643	May 2009..... 2,357
Dec 20093,103	Aug 2009..... 2,212	Apr 2009 2,347
Nov 20092,584	Jul 2009..... 2,619	Mar 2009 2,252
Oct 2009.....2,758	Jun 2009 2,554	Feb 2009 2,100

LOW COST ALTERNATIVE (LCA) / REFERENCE DRUG PROGRAM (RDP)

New LCA Categories

The following drugs (including both existing and new PharmaCare benefits) will be included as new LCA categories on PharmaNet, effective **March 31, 2010**.

NEW CATEGORY (CHEMICAL NAME)	DIN	BRAND NAME	LCA STATUS	PRICE
MOMETASONE LOTION 0.1%	00871095	ELOCOM® LOTION	P	0.3242
	02266385	TARO-MOMETASONE LOTION	F	
NARATRIPTAN 1 mg tablet	02237820	AMERGE®	P	10.8046
	02314290	NOVO-NARATRIPTAN	F	
NARATRIPTAN 2.5 mg tablet	02237821	AMERGE	P	11.3845
	02314304	NOVO-NARATRIPTAN	F	
OLANZAPINE ODT 20 mg tablet	02327597	CO-OLANZAPINE ODT	F*	
	02243089	ZYPREXA ZYDIS®	P*	7.8857
DIMENHYDRINATE 50 mg tablet	00363766	APO-DIMENHYDRINATE	P	0.0248
	02241532	DIMENHYDRINATE	P	0.0248
	00013803	GRAVOL® FILMKOTE®	P	0.0248
	02245416	MOTION SICKNESS TABLET	F	
	00021423	NOVO-DIMENATE	P	0.0248
	00605786	TRAVELTABS	P	0.0248

F – Fully covered

F* – Drug is a full benefit if Special Authority is in place when the prescription is filled.

P – Partially covered

P* – Drug is a partial benefit if Special Authority is in place when the prescription is filled.

LOW COST ALTERNATIVE (LCA) / REFERENCE DRUG PROGRAM (RDP) BOOKLET—CHANGES

New Drugs Categorized to LCA and/or RDP

Effective **March 31, 2010**, the following LCA categories will be revised.

LCA CATEGORY (CHEMICAL NAME)	DIN	BRAND NAME	LCA STATUS	PRICE
CITALOPRAM HYDROBROMIDE 20 mg tablet	02246056	APO-CITALOPRAM	P	0.8494
	02239607	CELEXA®	P	0.8494
	02306239	CITALOPRAM ODAN	F	

F – Fully covered

P – Partially covered

Continued...

New Drugs Categorized to LCA and/or RDP (Continued)

LCA CATEGORY (CHEMICAL NAME)	DIN	BRAND NAME	LCA STATUS	PRICE
CITALOPRAM HYDROBROMIDE 20 mg tablet <i>Continued from previous page...</i>	02248050	CO-CITALOPRAM	P	0.8494
	02313405	JAMP CITALOPRAM	P	0.8494
	02304686	MINT CITALOPRAM	P	0.8494
	02246594	MYLAN-CITALOPRAM	P	0.8494
	02322781	NG-CITALOPRAM	P	0.8494
	02293218	NOVO-CITALOPRAM	P	0.8494
	02248944	PHL-CITALOPRAM	P	0.8494
	02248010	PMS-CITALOPRAM	P	0.8494
	02285622	RAN-CITALO	P	0.8494
	02252112	RATIO-CITALOPRAM	P	0.8494
	02248170	SANDOZ CITALOPRAM	P	0.8494
CITALOPRAM HYDROBROMIDE 40 mg tablet	02246057	APO-CITALOPRAM	P	0.8496
	02239608	CELEXA®	P	0.8496
	02306247	CITALOPRAM ODAN	F	
	02248051	CO-CITALOPRAM	P	0.8496
	02313413	JAMP CITALOPRAM	P	0.8496
	02304694	MINT CITALOPRAM	P	0.8496
	02246595	MYLAN-CITALOPRAM	P	0.8496
	02322803	NG-CITALOPRAM	P	0.8496
	02293226	NOVO-CITALOPRAM	P	0.8496
	02248945	PHL-CITALOPRAM	P	0.8496
	02248011	PMS-CITALOPRAM	P	0.8496
	02285630	RAN-CITALO	P	0.8496
	02252120	RATIO-CITALOPRAM	P	0.8496
	02248171	SANDOZ CITALOPRAM	P	0.8496

F – Fully covered

P – Partially covered

Benefits — Limited Coverage Drug Program

The following products are eligible benefits under the Limited Coverage Program—by Special Authority only—for Fair PharmaCare and Plans B, C and F.

For the Special Authority criteria, please visit the [Special Authority Information](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare) page on the PharmaCare website at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare.

DIN	DRUG NAME	PLAN G	PLAN P
02275813	DURAGESIC* [†] MAT patches (fentanyl) 25 µg/h	N	♦
02275821	DURAGESIC* [†] MAT patches (fentanyl) 50 µg/h	N	♦
02275848	DURAGESIC* [†] MAT patches (fentanyl) 75 µg/h	N	♦
02275856	DURAGESIC* [†] MAT patches (fentanyl) 100 µg/h	N	♦
02282097	ORENCIA [®] (abatacept) 250 mg vial modification of criteria for rheumatoid arthritis	N	N
02241927	RITUXAN [®] (rituximab) 10 mg/mL vial modification of criteria for rheumatoid arthritis	N	N

♦ See Palliative Care Drug Plan table below.

Benefits — Palliative Care Drug Plan (Plan P) Only

The following new products are now eligible PharmaCare benefits for Plan P only.

DIN	DRUG NAME	LCA STATUS
02275813	DURAGESIC* [†] MAT patches (fentanyl) 25 µg/h	P
02275821	DURAGESIC* [†] MAT patches (fentanyl) 50 µg/h	P
02275848	DURAGESIC* [†] MAT patches (fentanyl) 75 µg/h	P
02275856	DURAGESIC* [†] MAT patches (fentanyl) 100 µg/h	P

P – Partially covered

NON-BENEFITS

The following products have been reviewed and will not be added as benefits under PharmaCare.

DIN/NPN	DRUG NAME
80009633	JAMP-VITAMIN B1 50 mg tablet
80009588	JAMP-VITAMIN B1 100 mg tablet
02320908	RATIO-MEMANTINE 10 mg tablet
02296659	SEASONALE [®] (levonorgestrel-ethinyl estradiol) 0.15 mg – 0.05 mg tablet