



# BC PharmaCare Newsletter

February 15, 2012 Edition 12-002

Published by the Pharmaceutical Services Division to provide information for British Columbia's health care providers

## B.C. SMOKING CESSATION PROGRAM UPDATE

### Federally Insured Patients with Active MSP Coverage

To ensure adequate coverage for federally insured patients with active MSP coverage (i.e., Veterans Affairs Canada and Non-Insured Health Benefits Program patients), these patients now have the option of choosing PharmaCare coverage for the NRTs and smoking cessation drugs eligible under the BC Smoking Cessation Program.



If a patient covered by one of these federal plans has a BC Smoking Cessation Program reference number for an NRT or a prescription for one of the smoking cessation drugs covered by the program:

1. **Submit the claim to their federal insurer first.**
2. **If the federal plan indicates it will not cover the product for the patient:**
  - Remove the federal coverage in your local system.
  - Call the PharmaNet HelpDesk to have the federal coverage flag removed, so that either:
    - the NRT claim can adjudicate as PharmaCare pays 100%, or
    - the Rx claim can adjudicate according to the rules of the patient's PharmaCare plan.

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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.

## B.C. SMOKING CESSATION PROGRAM UPDATE, CONTINUED

### 3. If the federal plan claim indicates it will cover the product:

The patient now has the option of choosing PharmaCare coverage (**for products under the BC Smoking Cessation Program only**) even if their federal insurer would provide coverage.

Please ensure the patient understands that—although PharmaCare covers NRTs 100%—PharmaCare coverage for prescription drugs is provided according to the rules of the patient's PharmaCare plan, including any deductible requirement.

PharmaCare will fully cover the patient's prescription if they receive B.C. Income Assistance (Plan C). **However, if they are covered under Fair PharmaCare and have not met the deductible, VAC or NIHB may provide more financial coverage.**

**If the patient prefers PharmaCare coverage**, simply remove federal coverage to allow the claim to default to PharmaCare, as described in Step 2 above.



Does your federally insured patient need PharmaCare coverage for a prescription smoking cessation drug or for drugs that their federal insurer does not cover?

Your patient can register for Fair PharmaCare:

- [Online](#) (24 hours a day)
- [By phone](#) (Monday through Friday 8am to 8pm and Saturdays 8am to 4pm).

Temporary assistance starts the same day.