



# BC PharmaCare Newsletter

March 30, 2012 Edition 12-005

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

## QuickLinks

Now Online—PharmaCare Policy Manual 2012.....	1
Termination of the Pharmacy Services Agreement .....	2
Reminder—Reimbursement Changes Effective April 2, 2012 .....	3
Low Cost Alternative/Reference Drug Program (LCA/RDP) Reimbursement .....	3
Reduced Mark-Up for High-Cost Drugs .....	3
Reimbursement for Non-Returnable High-Cost Injectable Drugs.....	3
Reminder—Sign Up for PharmaCare and PharmaNet Publications Online .....	3
Special Services Fees.....	4
Benefits.....	4
Update—Continued Coverage under the Alzheimer’s Drug Therapy Initiative .....	4
Regular Benefits .....	4
Palliative Care Drug Plan (Plan P) Only .....	5
Limited Coverage Drug Program Benefits .....	5
Non-Benefits .....	7

## NOW ONLINE—PHARMACARE POLICY MANUAL 2012



A new **PharmaCare Policy Manual** is now online. The manual provides all PharmaCare policy in effect as of March 23, 2012. It also contains most procedures.

The Pharmaceutical Services Division will be working to add procedures and other resources over time and will incorporate any changes to policies or procedures as they occur.

Please consult this manual for the information you need about current policies and requirements. It is available at [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/generalinfo/policy](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/generalinfo/policy).

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.

## TERMINATION OF THE PHARMACY SERVICES AGREEMENT

As announced on February 29, 2012, the Pharmacy Services Agreement (PSA) ends April 1, 2012.

Current PharmaCare policies will **not** change as a result of the PSA termination. All policies, including those noted below, will continue in their current form until further notice.

<b>Dispensing fees</b>	The maximum dispensing fee PharmaCare will reimburse remains at \$10.00.
<b>Plan B Capitation fees</b>	PharmaCare continues to pay a capitation fee of \$43.75 per serviced bed occupied by a patient covered under PharmaCare Plan B.
<b>Clinical Services Fees</b>	There is no change to payment for prescription adaptations for B.C. residents. Qualifying prescription renewals and adaptations remain eligible for a \$10.00 clinical service fee. Therapeutic substitution remains eligible for a \$17.20 clinical service fee.
<b>Medication Review Services</b>	Funding for medication review services continues under the existing policies.
<b>Rural Incentive Program</b>	Rural pharmacies will continue to receive a subsidy for each claim submitted if the volume of claims submitted and paid (fully or partially) by PharmaCare during the month is below a specific threshold.
<b>Reimbursement for Non-Returnable High-Cost Injectable Drugs Policy</b>	PharmaCare will continue to allocate an annual pool of funds to provide reimbursement for the adjudicated PharmaCare-paid ingredient cost for an eligible high-cost injectable drug that was ordered for a specific patient but, due to circumstances outside the control of the pharmacy, was not received by the patient.
<b>Full Payment Policy</b>	Pharmacists are not permitted to charge a patient any amount above what PharmaCare covers if the patient is receiving 100% PharmaCare coverage.
<b>LCA Products</b>	As of April 2, 2012, the maximum allowable list price (MALP) that manufacturers can charge for generic LCA products is 35% of the equivalent brand product's list price.
<b>Maximum Pricing Policy</b>	Most drug products will be reimbursed up to the manufacturer list price plus a mark-up of 8%.
<b>Reduced Maximum Mark-Up for High-Cost Drugs Policy</b>	PharmaCare reimburses high-cost drugs subject to this policy to a maximum price based on the manufacturer list price plus a 5% mark-up.

## REMINDER—REIMBURSEMENT CHANGES EFFECTIVE APRIL 2, 2012

Consistent with existing PharmaCare Reimbursement and Pricing policies, please note the following updates will soon be coming into effect to the Low Cost Alternative/ Reference Drug Program and to the reimbursement for certain high cost drugs.

### Low Cost Alternative/Reference Drug Program (LCA/RDP) Reimbursement

Effective **April 2, 2012**, the maximum allowable list price (MALP) that manufacturers can charge for generic LCA products will be reduced to 35% of the equivalent brand product's list price.

With the exception of drugs subject to the Reduced Mark-Up for High-Cost Drugs policy (*see below for details*), drug products will be reimbursed up to the established MALP, plus a mark-up of 8%.

For details, refer to the PharmaCare Newsletter 12-004 ([www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/newsletter/news12-004.pdf](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/newsletter/news12-004.pdf)) and the updated LCA/RDP Excel spreadsheets at [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/lca/lcabooklets.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/lca/lcabooklets.html).

### Reduced Mark-Up for High-Cost Drugs

As posted on the PharmaCare website on March 2, 2012, a number of drug products have been added to the list of products included under the Reduced Mark-Up for High-Cost Drugs policy and two drug products have been removed. The list of products is at [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/pdf/hi-cost-mrkup.pdf](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/pdf/hi-cost-mrkup.pdf).

### Reimbursement for Non-Returnable High-Cost Injectable Drugs

As posted on the PharmaCare website on March 2, 2012, a number of drug products have been added to the list of products included under the Reimbursement for Non-Returnable High-Cost Injectable Drugs policy and two drug products have been removed. The list of products is at [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/pdf/nr-injectables.pdf](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/pdf/nr-injectables.pdf).

## REMINDER—SIGN UP FOR PHARMACARE AND PHARMANET PUBLICATIONS ONLINE

Last month, we asked all pharmacists who still receive a printed copy of our publications to:

- consider subscribing to the online publication, or
- confirm their continuing need for a printed copy.

Thank you to all who took the time to subscribe.

If we haven't received a form from you by **April 30, 2012**, we will assume that you no longer require a printed copy.

**If you would like to read our publications online**, sign up for our Subscription Service by visiting [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/listserv/index.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/listserv/index.html) and entering your e-mail address. An e-mail will be sent to you whenever a new publication is available.

**If you are not a subscriber and require a printed copy**, details can be found in the February 8, 2012, edition of the PharmaCare Newsletter. See [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/newsletter/index.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/newsletter/index.html) for details.

## SPECIAL SERVICES FEES

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

Feb 2012.....1,502	Oct 2011 ..... 1,891	Jun 2011.....1,921
Jan 2012.....1,409	Sep 2011..... 1,949	May 2011....1,959
Dec 2011.....2,112	Aug 2011 .... 1,804	Apr 2011 .....1,654
Nov 2011 ....2,002	Jul 2011 ..... 1,838	Mar 2011 ....1,556

## BENEFITS

### Update—Continued Coverage under the Alzheimer’s Drug Therapy Initiative



The Alzheimer’s Drug Therapy Initiative (ADTI) has expanded its research and will be continuing to provide PharmaCare coverage of cholinesterase inhibitors for both current and future participants.

**All patients approved for Special Authority coverage for cholinesterase inhibitor medication will continue to be eligible for coverage until a listing decision is made, expected in early 2014.**

The university-based Seniors’ Medication, Caregiver, and CLIMAT studies reached their enrolment targets and their focus is now on evaluating the data collected from participants.

The ADTI Project Team would like to thank health professionals across the province for their assistance in reminding patients of the 6-month renewal requirement, assisting with referrals to the above studies and generally supporting the Initiative.

Renewed coverage of cholinesterase inhibitors is subject to the usual rules of a patient's BC PharmaCare plan, including any deductible requirement. Retroactive coverage cannot be provided for prescriptions filled before Special Authority approval is in place.

### Regular Benefits

The following blood glucose monitoring strips are now eligible PharmaCare benefits.

DIN	DRUG NAME
44123046	Accu-Chek Mobile™ Blood Glucose Test Strips
44123047	BGStar™ Blood Glucose Test Strips
44123049	OneTouch® Verio™ Blood Glucose Test Strips
44123048	Rightest® GS100 Blood Glucose Test Strips

The following needles for insulin use only are now eligible PharmaCare benefits for patients on Fair PharmaCare, Plan C and Plan F who have a valid Certificate of Training in blood glucose monitoring.

DIN	DRUG NAME
00999725	NovoTwist® 30G and NovoTwist® 32G Tip Needles

## Palliative Care Drug Plan (Plan P) Only

The following products have been reviewed and will not be added as benefits under other PharmaCare plans. They will continue as benefits under the Palliative Care Drug Plan.

DIN	DRUG NAME	PLAN P
02247698	Metadol® (methadone) 1 mg tablet	Yes
02247699	Metadol® (methadone) 5 mg tablet	Yes
02247700	Metadol® (methadone) 10 mg tablet	Yes
02247701	Metadol® (methadone) 25 mg tablet	Yes

## Limited Coverage Drug Program Benefits

### Special Authority Coverage of Boceprevir (Victrelis™)

Effective **March 15, 2012**, boceprevir became available as a Limited Coverage benefit through PharmaCare's Special Authority (SA) program for the treatment of chronic Hepatitis C.

Detailed criteria are available at [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/boceprevir.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/boceprevir.html).

Coverage of boceprevir is subject to the usual rules of a patient's BC PharmaCare plan, including any annual deductible requirement. Retroactive coverage cannot be provided for prescriptions filled before SA approval is in place.

### Limited Coverage Drugs—Update

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](#) page on the PharmaCare website at [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare).

DIN	DRUG NAME	SA
02370816	Victrelis™ (boceprevir) 200 mg capsule	Yes
02371448	Victrelis Triple™ (boceprevir) 200 mg capsule in combination with ribavirin 200 mg capsule and peginterferon alfa-2b powder for solution in REDIPEN single dose delivery system as 80 µg/0.5 ml	Yes
02371456	Victrelis Triple™ (boceprevir) 200 mg capsule in combination with ribavirin 200 mg capsule and peginterferon alfa-2b powder for solution in REDIPEN single dose delivery system as 100 µg/0.5 ml	Yes
02371464	Victrelis Triple™ (boceprevir) 200 mg capsule in combination with ribavirin 200 mg capsule and peginterferon alfa-2b powder for solution in REDIPEN single dose delivery system as 120 µg/0.5 ml	Yes
02371472	Victrelis Triple™ (boceprevir) 200 mg capsule in combination with ribavirin 200 mg capsule and peginterferon alfa-2b powder for solution in REDIPEN single dose delivery system as 150 µg/0.5 ml	Yes

## Limited Coverage Drug Program Benefits, continued

The Special Authority criteria for the following products have been modified. For the revised Special Authority criteria, please visit [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/interferonribavirin.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/interferonribavirin.html).

DIN	DRUG NAME	SA
02223406	Intron A® (interferon alfa-2b) 10 million IU/vial powder	Yes
02231651	Intron A® (interferon alfa-2b) 18 million IU/vial powder	Yes
02238674	Intron A® (interferon alfa-2b) 18 million IU/ready-to-use solution	Yes
02240693	Intron A® (interferon alfa-2b) 18 million IU/pen solution for injection multi-dose pen	Yes
02238675	Intron A® (interferon alfa-2b) 25 million IU/ready-to-use solution	Yes
02240694	Intron A® (interferon alfa-2b) 30 million IU/pen solution for injection multi-dose pen	Yes
02240695	Intron A® (interferon alfa-2b) 60 million IU/pen solution for injection multi-dose pen	Yes
02246026	Pegetron® (peginterferon alfa-2b) 50 µg/0.5 ml solution in vial plus ribavirin 200 mg capsule	Yes
02246027	Pegetron® (peginterferon alfa-2b) 80 µg/0.5 ml solution in vial plus ribavirin 200 mg capsule	Yes
02254581	Pegetron® (peginterferon alfa-2b) 80 µg/0.5 ml solution in REDIPEN® single dose delivery system plus ribavirin 200 mg capsule	Yes
02246028	Pegetron® (peginterferon alfa-2b) 100 µg/0.5 ml solution in vial plus ribavirin 200 mg capsule	Yes
02254603	Pegetron® (peginterferon alfa-2b) 100 µg/0.5 ml solution in REDIPEN® single dose delivery system plus ribavirin 200 mg capsule	Yes
02246029	Pegetron® (peginterferon alfa-2b) 120 µg/0.5 ml solution in vial plus ribavirin 200 mg capsule	Yes
02254638	Pegetron® (peginterferon alfa-2b) 120 µg/0.5 ml solution in REDIPEN® single dose delivery system plus ribavirin 200 mg capsule	Yes
02246030	Pegetron® (peginterferon alfa-2b) 150 µg/0.5 ml solution in vial plus ribavirin 200 mg capsule	Yes
02254646	Pegetron® (peginterferon alfa-2b) 150 µg/0.5 ml solution in REDIPEN® single dose delivery system plus ribavirin 200 mg capsule	Yes
02253410	Pegasys RBV® (peginterferon alfa-2a) 180 µg/1 ml pre-filled syringe plus ribavirin 200 mg tablet	Yes
02253429	Pegasys RBV® (peginterferon alfa-2a) 180 µg/0.5 ml single-use vial plus ribavirin 200 mg tablet	Yes

## Non-Benefits

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

DIN	DRUG NAME
02247694	Metadol® (methadone) 1 mg/mL oral solution
02355655	Restasis® (cyclosporine) 0.05% ophthalmic emulsion

## Discontinuations of Coverage

Effective March 15, 2012, PharmaCare Limited Coverage will be discontinued for the following products.

DIN	DRUG NAME
02239832	Infergen® (interferon alfacon-1) 0.03 mg/ml solution for injection