



BC PharmaCare Newsletter

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PHARMACARE AUDIT

PharmaCare Audit has discovered that some pharmacies are not adhering to the Frequency of Dispensing policy. It has also been discovered that some pharmacies are backdating claims. The scenarios below resulted in substantial financial recoveries.

Frequency of Dispensing Policy—Not Adhering to Weekly Dispensing or a Prescriber’s Daily Dispensing Instructions

- The Frequency of Dispensing policy limits the coverage of dispensing fees to three DINs/PINs per patient per day for daily dispensed medications. For prescriptions marked as daily by the prescribing physician, medications must be dispensed daily, though only three dispensing fees may be accepted.
- The policy limits the coverage of dispensing fees to five DINs/PINs per patient for weekly dispensed claims. For prescriptions marked as weekly by the prescriber or through a Frequent Dispensing Authorization form, medications must be dispensed weekly, though only five dispensing fees may be accepted.



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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.

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- The actual number of claims that adjudicate with the professional fee accepted may vary depending on the patient's count of active dispenses at the time of dispensing.
- It is not acceptable for pharmacies to dispense/bill medications in larger quantities than what a physician has ordered (e.g., in weekly or monthly supplies).
- Failing to dispense the medications daily or weekly as directed may lead to patient harm, overdose, and lost or stolen medications.
- PharmaCare recovers any paid amounts associated with this practice.

Note: Some medications, such as inhalers, are not subject to the Frequency of Dispensing policy.

Backdating Claims

PharmaCare Audit has discovered some pharmacies are not submitting claims to PharmaNet on the date the medications were dispensed (i.e., they are backdating claims).

- Claims must be submitted to PharmaNet on the same day that medications are dispensed (if a claim is submitted inaccurately, it must be reversed and corrected on the same day that the medication was dispensed in order to ensure the patient's PharmaNet profile is current).
- Claims have been found to have been submitted days, weeks, or months after the actual dispensing date.
- This practice constitutes a serious threat to patient safety:
 - A PharmaNet Drug Use Evaluation does not occur when the drug is actually dispensed.
 - Other health care professionals (including Emergency Departments) are not able to rely on the PharmaNet information regarding the start date or duration of therapy.
 - Some patients may be able to obtain duplicate medications at another pharmacy.
- PharmaCare recovers any paid amounts associated with this practice.

The two scenarios above are not an all-inclusive summary of audit findings. For more information about the FOD policy, please refer to [Section 8.3](#) of the PharmaCare Policy Manual. For more information about backdating claims, please refer to [Section 21](#) of the Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act—Bylaws and to [Section 3.16](#) of the PharmaCare Policy Manual.

PROSTHETICS AND ORTHOTICS UPDATES

Prosthetic & Orthotic Committee meetings

Starting in December 2016, the Prosthetic & Orthotic Committee meetings will move from Friday to Wednesday.

Applications for Financial Assistance for 2016 Benefit Year

Under PharmaCare's Prosthetic and Orthotic Program, prosthetic and orthotic providers must obtain pre-approval, on behalf of their patients, for any claim of \$400 or more.

To allow PharmaCare enough time to respond to each application and enable providers to make and dispense approved devices before the end of year, PharmaCare recommends **you submit applications for prosthetic and orthotic pre-approvals before November 10, 2016**. A large volume of applications are processed at this time, so PharmaCare cannot guarantee its response time to applications received after November 10, 2016. Providers submitting applications after that date may not have time to create and dispense devices by December 31, 2016.

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Application forms are available on the [Medical Device Providers](#) page. Please fax completed applications to HIBC at 250-405-3590.

Submitting applications as soon as possible is particularly important for 2016 claims as, due to holidays, there will be **no Prosthetic & Orthotic Committee meeting on December 28**.

Important Information for Your Patients

Patients who do not receive approval in time to be covered in 2016—or who do not receive their products before December 31, 2016—may be interested in the Monthly Deductible Payment Option for 2017. (See [page 4](#) for more details.)

This option allows a person (or family) who expects to meet or exceed their annual Fair PharmaCare deductible to pay part of their deductible cost each month and get help with their prescription/medical supply costs early in the year.

Note: All families who need Fair PharmaCare Plan coverage must register before their claim is processed. Claims submitted before a patient has active Fair PharmaCare coverage cannot be covered. The patient, or patient’s private insurer, will have to pay the full cost without assistance from PharmaCare.

2016/17 PROVINCIAL INFLUENZA CAMPAIGN

Pharmacists are invited to participate in the 2016/17 Provincial Influenza Campaign. Pharmacists authorized to administer immunizations will receive \$10 for each publicly funded influenza vaccine administered by injection to an eligible B.C. resident between September 1, 2016 and June 1, 2017.



Before you offer influenza vaccine and services for private purchase, you should screen the patient. If they are eligible, offer them publicly funded influenza vaccine. If an eligible B.C. resident asks for publicly funded influenza vaccine and you are unable to fulfill their request, you should inform the patient where publicly funded vaccine services may be available.

The publicly funded seasonal vaccines available to pharmacists this year are:

PIN	VACCINE
66124873	AGRIFLU®
66124872	FLUAD®
66124765	FLUVIRAL®
66128005	FLULAVAL™ TETRA
66128074	FLUMIST® QUADRIVALENT*

* PharmaCare does not pay an administration fee for Flumist. Only vaccines administered by injection qualify for the administration fee.

PUBLICLY FUNDED VACCINES

The following vaccine has been added to the list of publicly funded vaccines:

PIN	VACCINE
66128117	Gardasil®9

For a full list of publicly funded vaccines available to pharmacists, and other useful information for pharmacists, please see our [Vaccine Resources for Pharmacists](#) web page.

MONTHLY DEDUCTIBLE PAYMENT OPTION

Do you have patients who are worried about paying for their prescriptions or medical supplies until they meet their deductible?

The Monthly Deductible Payment Option (MDPO) can ease the financial burden early in the year. Families who enrol in the MDPO pay their Fair PharmaCare deductible in monthly instalments and receive assistance with their eligible prescription or medical supply costs right away.

The option is designed to assist individuals or families who:

- are registered for Fair PharmaCare,
- do not have private health insurance with a drug benefit plan,
- have a deductible greater than \$0, and
- expect their annual prescription or medical supply costs to meet or exceed their Fair PharmaCare deductible.

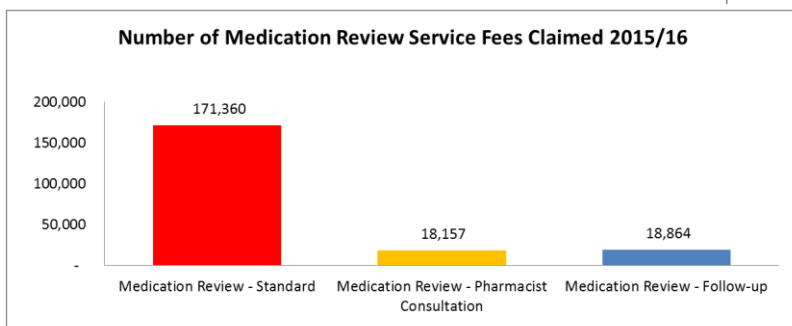
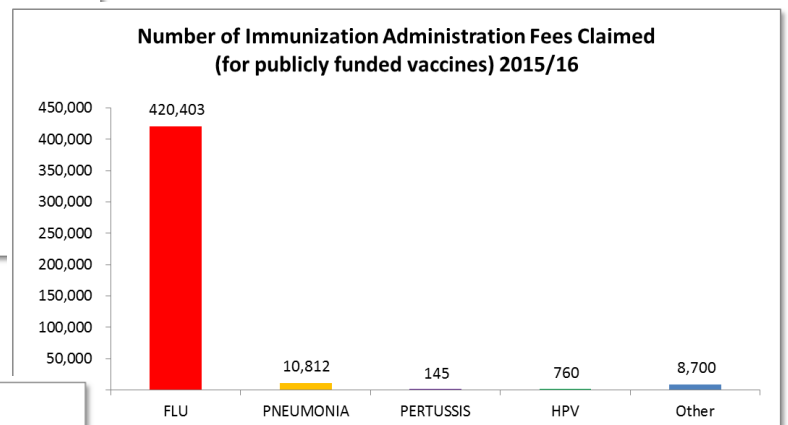
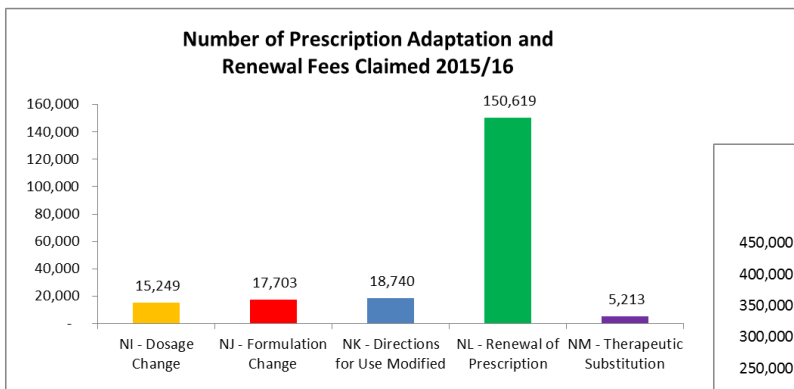
PharmaCare is now accepting enrolments for the MDPO for 2016. Enrolling at, or before, the start of the calendar year offers eligible individuals and families the smallest monthly instalment payment.

Each fall, letters are sent to those who enrolled for the current year advising them that enrolment for the following year is not automatic. If they wish to re-enrol, they must respond as directed in the letter.

For more information, patients can visit [Increased Assistance and Payment Options](#) on our PharmaCare website or contact Health Insurance BC.

CLINICAL SERVICES FEES 2015/16

The following charts show the number of B.C. clinical services claimed by pharmacists in the fiscal year 2015/16.



BENEFITS

Regular Benefits

The following new products are now eligible PharmaCare benefits for Fair PharmaCare and Plans B, C, F, and, if indicated below, Plan G and/or Plan P.

DIN	DRUG NAME	PLAN G	PLAN P
02446561	Arnuity™ Ellipta® (fluticasone furoate) 100 mcg dry powder for oral inhalation	N	Y
02446588	Arnuity™ Ellipta® (fluticasone furoate) 200 mcg dry powder for oral inhalation	N	Y

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 and, if indicated, Plan G and/or Plan P.

For information on all Special Authority drugs, visit our [Special Authority](#) page. For criteria and forms for a **specific** drug, click on the **drug name** below.

COVERAGE EFFECTIVE	September 13, 2016		
DRUG NAME	Breo® Ellipta® (fluticasone furoate – vilanterol)		
INDICATION	Asthma		
DIN	02408872	100 mcg/25 mcg dry powder for oral inhalation	
DIN	02444186	200 mcg/25 mcg dry powder for oral inhalation	
PLAN G BENEFIT?	N		
PLAN P BENEFIT?	Y		

High-Cost Drugs

The following products will be added to the list of designated high-cost drugs. For details on the High-Cost Drug policy, see [Section 5.8](#) of the PharmaCare Policy Manual. The complete list of high-cost drugs is available online at www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare/hi-cost-mrkup.pdf.

DIN	DRUG NAME	Effective Date
02438070	secukinumab (Cosentyx®) 150 mg/1.0ml	November 10, 2016
02334852	somatropin (Norditropin Nordiflex®) 5 mg/1.5ml	November 10, 2016
02334860	somatropin (Norditropin Nordiflex®) 10 mg/1.5ml	November 10, 2016
02334879	somatropin (Norditropin Nordiflex®) 15 mg/1.5ml	November 10, 2016

Non-Benefits

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

DIN	DRUG NAME
02452219	Jadenu™ (deferasirox) 90 mg tablets
02452227	Jadenu™ (deferasirox) 180 mg tablet
02452235	Jadenu™ (deferasirox) 360 mg tablet
02444372	Plegridy™ (peginterferon beta-1a) 63 µg/0.5 mL pre-filled syringe or pen
02444380	Plegridy™ (peginterferon beta-1a) 94 µg/0.5 mL pre-filled syringe or pen

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DIN	DRUG NAME
02444399	Plegridy™ (peginterferon beta-1a) 125 µg/0.5 mL pre-filled syringe or pen
02444402	Plegridy™ (peginterferon beta-1a) 63 µg/0.5 ml and 94 µg/0.5 ml starter pack
02380021	Toviaz® (fesoterodine) 4 mg tablet
02380048	Toviaz® (fesoterodine) 8 mg tablet
02402874	Myrbetriq® (mirabegron) 25 mg tablet
02402882	Myrbetriq® (mirabegron) 50 mg tablet
02244612	Detrol® LA (tolterodine) 2 mg capsule
02244613	Detrol® LA (tolterodine) 4 mg capsule
02440342	Rosiver™ (ivermectin) cream 1%