

PharmaCare Downloadable Data File – Interpretation Document

Updated April 30, 2013. Updates formatted in red.

The PharmaCare Downloadable Data File (PDDF) contains:

- two years of historical changes for each Drug Identification Number (DIN)
- both operational and business information to ease interpretation of PharmaCare policies
- one record per DIN, per PharmaCare Plan, for each point in time—allowing plan-specific information to be displayed that is consistent with the online benefits lookup application

Variable Descriptions

The following table lists the variables in the data file and a description for each variable.

Variable	Description
DIN / PIN	Drug Identification Number assigned by Health Canada or Product Identification Number assigned by BC PharmaCare
Plan	Plans under which the drug is an eligible benefit. Drugs with no benefit groups are identified as 'NB' for 'Non Benefit'
Record Effective Date	The date that the information on the record becomes in effect.
Record End Date	The last date that the information on the record is effective
Benefit Group List	Benefit group(s) under which the drug is eligible. In general, benefit groups are identified by 2-characters. For those benefit groups identified by one character, a space precedes the character.
LCA Indicator	Full Partial Benefit – “P” indicates a partial benefit, and P* indicates a RDP drug that is a partial benefit, but a full benefit with a RDP special authority. See LCA transition information below under “Caveats”.
Pay Generic Indicator	An alternative to LCA Indicator but contains only ‘Y’ or ‘N’. ‘Y’ indicates a partial LCA benefit and ‘N’ indicates a full LCA benefit OR not part of LCA program.
Brand Name	Brand name (manufacturer’s name) of the drug or product.
Manufacturer	Drug Manufacturer Code for the manufacturer of the drug.
Generic Name	“Active Ingredient of the Drug”. This field contains the chemical name as well as the strength, dose and form of the drug.
Variable	Description
Dosage Form	Dose form description such as “TABLETS” to explain the abbreviation used in the Generic Name.

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Variable	Description
Trial Flag	The drug and plan combination is eligible for the Trial Prescription Program .
Maximum Price	BC PharmaCare maximum allowable price.
LCA Price	LCA price in effect for this drug. A generic price of \$0 indicates the drug is (a) a full benefit under the Low Cost Alternative (LCA) program or (b) is not included in the LCA program. An entry in this field other than zero indicates that the drug is a partial benefit under the Low Cost Alternative (LCA) program and the LCA price indicated is the highest amount PharmaCare will recognize for the drug. Note: a lower price may supersede the LCA price listed here for claim adjudication. Most often, this would be the RDP price.
RDP Category	RDP Category (e.g., “0024”).
RDP Sub-category	Reference Drug Sub-category (e.g., “0001”)
RDP Price	Reference Drug Price per Day.
RDP Excluded Plans	Plan(s) under which the drug is not subject to RDP price reductions.
Canadian Federal Regulatory Code	Valid values: A –Homeopathic Drug Products C –Controlled drugs (Controlled Drugs fall under Schedule G [all sections] in the Food and Drug Regulations) D –Biologicals (Biologicals fall under Schedule G [all sections] in the Food and Drug Regulations) E –Ethical N –Narcotic drugs (Narcotics are covered under the Narcotics Control Regulations) P –Prescription drugs (see Schedule F in the Food and Drug Regulations) O –Over the counter R –CDSA Recommended (See CDSA Recommended in the Food and Drug Regulations) T –Targeted (Targeted drugs fall under the Benzodiazepines and Other Targeted Substances Regulations) NULL –The product is listed as a Not Marketed Item. Note: Notice of Compliance (NOC) items are not listed in the DPD. NOC lists are a separate entity on the Health Canada website and do not include federal schedule codes. Since the NOC list does not include the federal schedule code, NOCs are added to the MedKnowledge database as Not Marketed products and usually without a federal schedule code. Note: Products that fall under two or more regulatory codes are listed under the code for the category that is most restrictive.

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Variable	Description
PharmaCare Plan Description	A description of the PharmaCare Plan (e.g., "Income Based")
Maximum Days Supply	The maximum days supply recognized for reimbursement for the DIN / Plan combination.
Quantity Limit	The maximum quantity recognized for reimbursement for the DIN / Plan combination.
Formulary List Date	The first date that PharmaCare treated the DIN as an eligible benefit for the Plan indicated.
Limited Use flag	An indicator that the DIN is a Limited Use product.

File Layout

The following table provides information about each field in the data file.

Name	Header Name	Layout/Format	Position
DIN/PIN	DIN/PIN	Char(8) with leading zeros.	1
Plan	Plan	Char(2) left justified.	2
Record Effective Date	Rec Eff Date	YYYYMMDD	3
Record End Date	Rec End Date	YYYYMMDD	4
Benefit Group List	Ben Grp List	Char(60) left justified.	5
LCA Indicator	LCA Ind	Char(2) left justified	6
Pay Generic Indicator	Pay Gen Ind	Char(1)	7
Brand Name	Brand Nm	Char(64) left justified	8
Manufacturer	Manuf	Char(6)	9
Generic Name	Generic Nm	Char(60)	10
Dosage Form	Dosage Form	Varchar(20)	11
Trial Flag	Trial Flg	Char(1)	12

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Name	Header Name	Layout/Format	Position
Maximum Price	Max Price	9999.9999	13
LCA Price	LCA Price	9999.9999	14
RDP Category	RDP Cat	Char(4)	15
RDP Sub-category	RDP Sub Cat	Char(4)	16
RDP Price	RDP Price	9999.9999	17
RDP Excluded Plans	RDP Excl Plans	Varchar(20)	18
Canadian Federal Regulatory Code	Can Fed Reg Cd	Char(1)	19
PharmaCare Plan Description	Pcare Plan Desc	Varchar(40)	20
Maximum Days Supply	Max Days Supply	999	21
Quantity Limit	Qty Limit	99999999	22
Formulary List Date	Formulary List Date	YYYYMMDD	23
Limited Use flag	Ltd Use Flag	Char(1)	24

Caveats

- Some plans have restrictions which are not fully described by the simple extract file. For example, some drugs have a benefit group of 'CN' which limits the age of the client who is eligible for the drug. Since the benefit group 'CN' falls under Plan C, this drug is reported as a Plan C benefit. To address this simplification, un-altered benefit group values are provided for cases in which a more detailed understanding of PharmaCare benefits is needed.
- LCA Pricing applies to a number of products (e.g. short acting insulin analogues) to set PharmaCare reimbursement limits. However, these drugs are not part of the LCA program and do not appear in the LCA data files.

Questions?

If you have questions about the data files, please send an email to PharmaCare (pharma@gov.bc.ca).