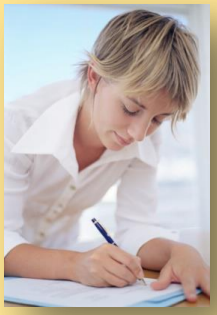
BC PharmaCare
Special Authority Coverage



PharmaCare covers some drugs and medical devices only in **specific medical circumstances**. For these items, your prescriber must send a Special Authority request to PharmaCare.

If the request is approved, **your coverage begins as soon as approval is entered in PharmaNet**, a computer network that links all B.C. pharmacies.

Special Authority must be in place before you buy the item; PharmaCare cannot cover it retroactively.

The actual coverage you receive is based on the rules of your PharmaCare plan, including any deductible requirements.

Which drugs need Special Authority?

See the list of Special Authority drugs at www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority. This list includes drugs that are not usually the first choice of treatment, or for which there may be less expensive alternatives. Drugs not included on this list are not usually eligible for coverage.

Notes:

Some private insurers base their coverage on PharmaCare coverage. Please check with your private insurer if you have any questions about their policies. If you require proof of PharmaCare Special Authority to obtain reimbursement through your private insurer, please contact Health Insurance BC at the numbers given below.

If Special Authority coverage is not granted, can my physician re-apply?

Your prescriber can submit a new request for Special Authority coverage only if he/she is providing additional information showing that you meet the criteria for coverage or if your medical situation has changed, making you eligible.

How long does the coverage last?

It depends on the drug you are taking and the condition for which you are being treated. Check with your health care provider, your pharmacist, or Health Insurance BC, to find out when and if renewal might be needed.

Need more information?

Call Health Insurance BC (HIBC) Monday to Friday 8AM - 8PM and Saturday 8AM - 4PM:

- From Vancouver, call 604-683-7151
- From the rest of B.C., call toll-free 1-800-663-7100

BRITISH COLUMBIA