

5 Reimbursement and Pricing Policies

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5.1 Maximum Days Supply Policy

General Policy Description

The Maximum Days Supply policy limits PharmaCare coverage of drugs to either 30 or 100 days to address concerns over public safety and the cost of drug wastage by reducing the potential for left over supplies of drugs.

Policy Details

Accurate Entering of Days Supply

- To ensure the appropriate adjudication of claims, pharmacies are to accurately enter into PharmaNet the days supply for the drug dispensed.
- Claims with an inaccurate days supply may be subject to audit and recovery.

Application of the 100 Day Maximum Days Supply

- PharmaCare limits coverage to a maximum 100 day supply for repeat fills for long-term maintenance drugs.

Application of the 30 Day Maximum Days Supply

- PharmaCare limits coverage to a maximum 30 day supply for:
 - all fills for short-term drugs and other drugs assigned a 30 day supply maximum by PharmaCare; and
 - first fills for long-term maintenance drugs to ensure the drug is effective and tolerated by the patient.
- Short-term drugs include all narcotics, all antibiotics, antifungals, sedatives, sleeping pills, barbiturates and all drugs in the Plan P (Palliative Care) Formulary.
- Prescriptions subject to the maximum 30 day supply for first fills policy include:
 - a prescription for a new chemical entity
 - a prescription that involves a change in dosage (strength or dosing frequency) of a previously prescribed chemical entity
 - a new prescription for a previously prescribed chemical entity after a lengthy break in therapy (approximately four months or longer).
- PharmaNet cannot distinguish between first fills and refills. Pharmacists are responsible for determining whether a prescription is a first fill for a long-term maintenance drug (maximum 30 day supply) or a repeat fill (maximum 100 day supply). Pharmacists should review the patient medication history and ask the prescribing physician or the patient to determine whether the prescription is a first time fill or a repeat fill.
- The [PharmaCare Formulary Search](#) may be used to determine if a particular drug is subject to a 30 day maximum supply. Note that a 35 day maximum supply shown in the Formulary Search indicates a drug is subject to a 30 day maximum supply. The 35 day maximum supply shown is applicable only to Plan B patients.

- The following are automatically exempt from the 30 day maximum days supply:
 - Claims under PharmaCare Plan B are exempt to accommodate the 35 day monitored dosage system that may be used by pharmacies servicing long-term care facilities, and
 - Prescriptions dispensed under the [Trial Prescription Program](#) (where a 14-day trial has been dispensed)
- *[Amended August 24, 2016]* In the case of individuals **residing** in rural or remote areas **for whom travel to the pharmacy is a significant barrier**, the **pharmacist** can call the PharmaNet HelpDesk to request an exemption.

>> See *Procedures for Pharmacists, below.*

- In the case of certain chronic conditions, **physicians** may submit a [General Special Authority Request](#) (HLTH 5328) asking PharmaCare to exempt a patient from the 30-day maximum supply for a short-term drug. Approval may be granted allowing for a 100-day supply.

>> See [Section 6.3](#), *Special Authorities for Exceeding Maximum Days' Supply.*

Procedures

Procedures for Pharmacists

Processing a prescription for a remote/rural exemption

To process a rural or remote exemption:

1. Ensure that the patient qualifies.
2. Call the PharmaNet Help Desk and request the exemption.
The Help Desk will enter the exemption as a one-day Special Authority.
3. Write "Rural Supply Exemption" on the prescription for audit purposes.

Correcting a claim when the 30-day supply limit has been mistakenly applied

- If a 30-day supply limit has been applied mistakenly, the pharmacist may reverse the transaction and dispense a 100-day supply. This action is not eligible for a Special Services Fee.

Tools and Resources

- [PharmaCare Formulary Search](#)

5.2 Refilling Prescriptions Too Soon Policy

General Policy Description

PharmaCare does not normally cover prescription refills when there is more than a 14 day supply remaining from a previous fill.

Policy Details

- PharmaCare does not cover prescription refills when there is more than a 14 day supply remaining from a previous fill, except when there is a legitimate reason for supplying the medication early and an appropriate intervention code is entered.
- This policy does not apply to:
 - Claims under Plan B (Permanent Residents of Residential Care Facilities); or
 - Supply “top-up” claims eligible for an exception under the Travel Supply Policy.

>> Refer to the [Travel Supply Policy](#) for policies and procedures for these claims.

- For each claim submitted (with the exception of claims under PharmaCare Plan B and reversed claims), PharmaNet automatically:
 - Reviews the days’ supply of any previous claim for the same patient and medication submitted up to 100 days before the current date.
 - Identifies the expiry date of the days’ supply for the previous claim.
 - Adjudicates the current claim to zero if it is being submitted more than 14 days before the expiry of the days’ supply of the previous claim and returns the response code “**CL – Exceeds Good Faith Limit.**”
- When there is a legitimate reason for supplying the medication early, pharmacists can submit the claim using the intervention code “**UF – Patient gave adequate explanation. Rx filled as written.**” Pharmacists are required to document the use of this intervention code, and reason for supplying the medication early, in a manner accessible for audit purposes.
- PharmaCare Audit regularly reviews claims accompanied by the UF intervention code to ensure its legitimate use. Inadequate explanation and/or documentation of the use of the UF code may result in Pharmacare seeking recovery of costs.
- Note that the CL response code does not supersede the Drug Utilization Evaluation (DUE) D7—Fill Too Soon response. Although the DUE response is usually returned on claims that generate the CL response code, DUE response is based on medical data and continues to provide the most reliable alerts to potential drug therapy or dispensing problems.

5.3 Refilling Prescriptions on the Same Day Policy

General Policy Description

- PharmaCare does not cover multiple fills of the same prescription for the same patient on the same day unless an appropriate intervention code is entered.

Policy Details

Coverage Policy

- PharmaCare does not cover drug costs or dispensing fees for multiple fills for the same DIN/PIN at the same pharmacy on the same day for the same patient, unless there are exceptional circumstances and an appropriate intervention code is entered into PharmaNet.

Lost or Broken Prescriptions

- A lost or broken prescription fill processed with the intervention code **“MR—Item Lost or Broken”**, is eligible for coverage (subject to the usual eligibility requirements), even when refilled the same day as the initial prescription fill.

PRN Supply Claims for Non-Plan B Patients

- When dispensing a prescription for a regular compliance-packed dose plus an extra PRN (“take as needed”) supply of a drug for a patient not covered under Plan B, pharmacists should dispense the PRN portion in separate compliance packaging.
- To permit the correct adjudication of the same day/same patient PRN supply, use the intervention code **“CD—Therapeutic Duplication”** when entering the claim for the separate PRN portion.
- The same day fill of the PRN claim, as with any other claim, must be supported by the physician’s authorization which must be retained in the pharmacy’s prescription file.

PRN Supply Claims for Plan B Patients

- Pharmacies dispensing same day PRN (“take as needed”) supply claims to Plan B patients may use the intervention code **“MY—LTC Prescription Split for Compliance.”**

Claims for the Same Drug on the Same Day for a Patient and Their Pet

- When both a patient and their pet need the same drug on the same day and the pet’s prescription is filled first, PharmaNet interprets the subsequent patient prescription as a duplicate and rejects it. Although the claim record is removed from PharmaNet, the medication history record for the drug is not. So, if the claim is then re-entered with an intervention code, two fills of the medication will show on the patient’s medication history.
- When a pharmacy needs to fill a prescription for the same drug on the same day for both a patient and their pet the pharmacy should fill the patient’s prescription first to prevent the potential for duplicate fill inaccuracies in the patient’s medication history.
- If no prescription for that PHN and drug has been filled earlier in the day, submit the:

- patient's prescription first.
- pet's prescription second. (Include the veterinarian's Practitioner ID, the Reference Code V9 and the intervention code "**UF-patient gave adequate explanation.**")
- If the patient's prescription was filled earlier in the day, submit the claim for the pet's prescription. Include the veterinarian's Practitioner ID, the Reference Code **V9** and the intervention code "**UF-patient gave adequate explanation.**"
- If the pet's prescription was filled earlier in the day submit the claim for the patient's prescription. Include the intervention code "**UF-patient gave adequate explanation.**"
- If you forget to enter the UF intervention code and the claim is rejected, contact the [College of Pharmacists of BC](#) to correct the problem before you re-submit the prescription claim with the UF code.

5.4 Travel Supply Policy

General Policy Description

Under the [Refilling Prescriptions Too Soon Policy](#), PharmaCare does not cover prescription refills when the patient has more than a 14 day supply remaining from a previous fill. Under the Travel Supply Policy, once every 6 months (180 days), a patient can request an exception to the Refilling Prescriptions Too Soon Policy to permit an early prescription refill for the purpose of travel outside B.C.

Such refills are limited to “topping up” the remaining prescription supply to the maximum days’ supply recognized by PharmaCare for the drug.

Policy Details

Eligibility

- Patients are eligible for an early “top-up” refill under the Travel Supply Policy once every 6 months (180) days.

Coverage Limit

- PharmaCare covers travel supplies only up to the recognized PharmaCare maximum days' supply for the drug. Therefore, refills under the Travel Supply Policy are limited to the supply required to “top-up” the remaining patient supply of the drug to the maximum days supply recognized by PharmaCare for that drug. For example, if the patient has 50 days’ supply remaining of a drug subject to a 100 day supply maximum, a travel supply refill is limited to a 50 day supply.
- Patients requesting and receiving more than the recognized PharmaCare maximum days’ supply will be responsible for the cost of the supply exceeding the PharmaCare maximum days’ supply. For patients covered by Fair PharmaCare, only the portion of the costs eligible for PharmaCare coverage will count towards the deductible and/or family maximum.

Required Documentation and Recordkeeping

- Patients must complete and sign a Travel Declaration Form on the date the travel supply is filled in order to receive coverage for a travel supply refill. A parent or guardian can complete the Travel Declaration Form for a child’s prescription. Travel Declaration forms are supplied by the pharmacy.
- Only one Travel Declaration form is needed to document travel supply claims for multiple drugs filled on the same day. When claims for a single patient are filled on separate days, a new Travel Declaration form will be required for each day on which travel supply claims are filled.
- Pharmacies are to maintain completed Travel Declaration forms on file for audit purposes.

Entering Travel Supply Claims in PharmaNet

- Pharmacies are to process travel supply claims using the intervention code “**MV – Vacation Supply**”.
- The MV intervention code is to be used only for travel supply claims for individuals travelling outside B.C.

Special Services Fees

- Travel supply claims are not eligible for a Special Services Fee.

Procedures

Procedures for Pharmacists

Processing a Travel Supply Claim

- If PharmaNet refuses coverage of a refill because the patient has more than a two-week supply of medication left, ask the patient if the early refill is for travel outside B.C. and inform them of the Travel Supply Policy if it is.
- If the patient requests an exception under the Travel Supply Policy:
 - Have the patient complete and sign a Travel Declaration form.
A parent or guardian can complete the Travel Declaration for a child's prescription.
 - Reverse the claim and re-submit it with the intervention code "**MV – Vacation Supply.**"
The claim will adjudicate to allow coverage of a top-up to the PharmaCare maximum days' supply for the drug.
 - Retain the signed Travel Declaration form for audit purposes.

Response Code "65-Intervention/Exception Code Error"

- If you enter a claim using the "**MV-Vacation Supply**" intervention code and receive the response "**65-Intervention/Exception Code Error,**" it indicates that the patient has less than a 14 day supply and that the claim can, and should, be entered without the MV intervention code.
The MV code is required only if the patient has more than a 14 day supply.

Patients Choosing Not to Have a Claim Entered as a Travel Supply

- Enter the claim with the intervention code "**DE – Adjudicate to \$.00 as requested.**" The patient will be responsible for the cost and, if they are on the Fair PharmaCare plan, the cost will not count towards their deductible and/or family maximum.

Interaction of the MV Intervention Code with Other Intervention Codes

- If the **MV–Vacation Supply** intervention code is entered in a claim along with any one of the following intervention codes, the claim adjudicates according to the non-MV intervention code.
 - MP—Valid Claim—Value \$1000.00 to \$9999.99
 - MR—Replacement, Item Lost or Broken
 - MX—LTC Prescription Order
 - MY—LTC Prescription Split for Compliance
 - UA—Consulted prescriber & filled Rx as written
 - UF—Patient Gave Adequate Explanation & Filled As Written
 - DE—Adjudicate to 0.00 as requested

- When a claim is submitted with the MV intervention code and an intervention code **not** noted above, the claim adjudicates as a Travel Supply under the MV code.

Questions & Answers

What about patients who are moving to another province?

- There is no change to the current policy regarding coverage for non-residents. PharmaCare ceases to cover a person's medication as soon as they move outside B.C.

How do I order Travel Declaration forms for my pharmacy?

- Travel Declaration forms can be requested through Health Insurance BC.

5.5 Correct Quantities Policy

General Policy Description

Pharmacies must enter claims into PharmaNet using the correct dispensed quantity to ensure the efficient and accurate adjudication of claims.

Policy Details

- When entering a claim in PharmaNet, pharmacies are to ensure that the unit of measure used for the dispensed quantity matches that used in PharmaNet.
- Using the correct unit of measure when entering a dispensed quantity will ensure accurate adjudication of claims in PharmaNet.
- Claims that adjudicate incorrectly due to an inaccurate dispensed quantity are subject to recovery by PharmaCare.

Procedures

- Pharmacies may refer to the [Correct Quantities for PharmaCare Claim Submissions](#) list for assistance with determining the correct quantities to be entered for particular products. Pharmacies may suggest additions to this list by sending an email to pharma@gov.bc.ca.
- The [PharmaCare Formulary Search](#) may also be helpful in determining the unit of measure used for a particular product.
- Pharmacies may also contact the PharmaNet HelpDesk for assistance with determining correct quantities for claims.