

# PharmaCare Collaborative Prescribing Agreements

PharmaCare introduced Collaborative Prescribing Agreements (CPAs) for specific drugs to allow prescribers who agreed to prescribe according to PharmaCare's coverage criteria to do so without submitting a Special Authority request for each patient.

CPAs were developed in consultation with Doctors of BC (formerly the BC Medical Association) to save prescribers' time and to streamline the Special Authority Request process.

## How do Collaborative Prescribing Agreements work?

CPAs may be offered, for specific drugs, to selected prescribers or to certain groups of specialists. By entering into a CPA, a prescriber:

- Agrees to prescribe according to the Limited Coverage criteria specified for the drug in the CPA
- Is exempt from submitting Special Authority requests for patients who meet the criteria
- Agrees to annotate prescriptions for patients who do not meet the criteria in such a way that the pharmacy will know not to bill PharmaCare for the drug
- Agrees that PharmaCare may assess their adherence to the prescribing criteria.

CPAs save prescribers' time and help to maintain turnaround times on the remaining Special Authority requests. CPAs, however, are viable only if their terms are adhered to by all prescribers.

To ensure CPAs continue to be offered, PharmaCare reserves the right to:

- Require renewals of CPAs
- Discontinue a CPA if the drug is being prescribed in a manner inconsistent with the Limited Coverage criteria specified in the CPA.

## How do I know whether or not a CPA is available for a specific drug?

Visit [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/saindex.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/saindex.html) to access the list of drugs requiring a Special Authority. Click on the drug name to access the criteria page for the drug. If a CPA is available, it will be noted in the Prescriber Exemptions section of the page.

*Note: PharmaCare coverage is not retroactive. Special Authority approval or a current valid Physician Special Authority exemption must be in place before a patient fills a prescription.*