

BC PharmaCare

Pharmacy services

BC PharmaCare helps B.C. residents pay for many pharmacy services.

Pharmacist assessments of minor ailments

B.C. pharmacists can assess and recommend treatments for many minor ailments. They can prescribe medication when appropriate. Refer to page 2 for a list of minor ailments pharmacists can assess.

This service is free to every B.C. resident with a Personal Health Number. Your Personal Health Number can be found on your driver's licence, BC Services Card or CareCard.

Learn more and book an appointment at www.gov.bc.ca/SeeAPharmacist

Contraception

Pharmacists can assess and prescribe contraceptives. While the pharmacist can provide IUDs and implants, you will need to arrange a visit with a doctor or clinic for insertion. Many types of contraceptives are free in B.C. Visit www.gov.bc.ca/contraceptives to learn more.

This service is free to every B.C. resident with a Personal Health Number. Your Personal Health Number can be found on your driver's licence, BC Services Card or CareCard.

Adapting prescriptions

Pharmacists can adapt most prescriptions. This means they can:

- Renew most prescriptions after you've used the full amount. You must have been on the medication for 6 months with no issues. The prescription must have been written within 2 years, by a prescriber who is still practicing in B.C.
- Change the dose, formulation or regimen of a prescription—for example, switch you from a pill to a liquid, or change the times of day that you take it
- Substitute a medication with a similar one—for example, switch you to a drug covered by PharmaCare

A pharmacist will consider your health and medication history before adapting a prescription. They are not able to adapt all prescriptions.

This service is free to every B.C. resident with a Personal Health Number. Your Personal Health Number can be found on your driver's licence, BC Services Card or CareCard.

Dispensing medication and supplies

Pharmacies charge a fee to dispense a prescription. You may want to compare fees at different pharmacies if you are paying all or part of the fee.

If you are covered by one of PharmaCare's 100%-paid plans (Plans C, W, G, F, Z) or have met your Fair PharmaCare family maximum, PharmaCare pays the full dispensing fee for any covered medication.



Not registered for Fair PharmaCare? It's free. Go to www.gov.bc.ca/ahdc to learn more.

Medication injections

Pharmacists can inject many vaccines and medications. You won't pay anything for publicly funded vaccines, such as COVID and flu vaccines, if you qualify. Pharmacists can inject other vaccines and medications prescribed to you at no cost, though you may have to pay for the medication. You need to pay for injections of insulins, molecular weight heparins and other products designed for self-injection. You also need to pay for injections of allergy serums, substances for cosmetic use, and vaccines for travel.

Medication reviews

If you have picked up 5 or more prescription medications in the past 6 months, you can ask a pharmacist for a medication review. If they think a medication review is right for you, they will meet with you in person to:

- Discuss how to best take the medications
- Create a take-home list of all the medications you are taking, including non-prescription ones
- Create a medication management plan

You can have 1 review every 6 months, and 4 follow-up reviews per year.

This service is free to every B.C. resident with a Personal Health Number. Your Personal Health Number can be found on your driver's licence, BC Services Card or CareCard.

Minor ailments that pharmacists can assess

A pharmacist can assess you and prescribe or recommend treatments for these conditions:

- acne (mild)
- allergies and hay fever
- canker sores (oral ulcers)
- cold sores
- fungal infections
- headache
- heartburn (GERD)
- hemorrhoids
- hives or itching skin including from bug bites (urticaria)
- impetigo
- indigestion
- menstrual pain
- nicotine dependence
- pink eye
- pinworms and threadworms
- shingles
- skin rash (dermatitis)
- strains and sprains (musculoskeletal pain)
- Thrush (oral fungal infection)
- urinary tract infection (uncomplicated)
- vaginal yeast infection

More information

Talk to a pharmacist about any of these services, or phone us Monday to Friday 8 am to 8 pm and Saturday 8 am to 4pm.

- From the Lower Mainland: 604-683-7151
- From the rest of B.C., toll-free: 1-800-663-7100

Online resources

Read more about pharmacy services at www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacyservices

Details and self-assessment: www.gov.bc.ca/seeapharmacist

Covered contraceptives: www.gov.bc.ca/contraceptives