

BC PharmaCare

Minor Ailments and Contraception Service (MACS)

B.C. pharmacists can diagnose and prescribe for minor ailments and contraception. The service is funded by BC PharmaCare in community pharmacies.

Patient eligibility

The Minor Ailments and Contraception Service (MACS) is available to B.C. residents with a Personal Health Number (PHN).

B.C. residents can book a MACS appointment online at www.gov.bc.ca/seeapharmacist.

The MACS fee is not applicable to Plan B (Long-term Care), but MACS can be provided in a Plan B facility if it is in the best interest of a patient.

PharmaCare will not reimburse a medication review service claim and a MACS claim for the same patient on the same day.

The ailments

B.C. pharmacies can claim the PharmaCare MACS fee (\$20) for an assessment conducted by a pharmacist for any of the conditions below or for contraception:

- acne
- allergic rhinitis
- conjunctivitis
- dermatitis
- dysmenorrhea
- indigestion
- fungal infection of skin/nails
- GERD
- headache
- hemorrhoids
- herpes labialis
- impetigo
- musculoskeletal pain
- nicotine dependence
- oral ulcers
- oral thrush
- shingles
- threadworms and pinworms
- urinary tract infection (uncomplicated)
- skin rash, including insect bites
- vaginal candidiasis

Pharmacist requirements

Pharmacists must complete the PPMAC Regulatory Education module developed by the College of Pharmacists of BC and comply with the standards, limits and conditions defined by the BC Health Professions Act Bylaws Schedule F, Part 8 – Pharmacist Diagnosing and Prescribing, and Section 8.14 of the PharmaCare Policy Manual in order to participate in the service.

A pharmacist must also:

- Carry out MACS in person with the patient or their legal representative, if applicable (not by telephone or other electronic means)
- Provide MACS in a suitable area that the patient accepts as respectful of their right to privacy and meets their requirements for cultural safety
- Document MACS according to the requirements of Section 8.14 of the PharmaCare Policy Manual

Steps for pharmacists

1. Inform the patient of the service, ensure their coverage eligibility and clinical eligibility, and obtain informed consent.
2. Review the patient's PharmaNet profile.
3. Determine the nature of the patient's symptoms and assess their medical and medication history.
4. Recommend appropriate treatment, which may include medication, self-care advice, and/or advice to see other health care professional(s).
5. Provide advice on how to take any prescribed or recommended medication, including advising on any potential side effects or interactions, and what to do if symptoms do not improve.
6. Establish, implement, document and inform the patient of their follow-up and monitoring plan.

Full details are provided in Section 8.14 of the PharmaCare Policy Manual.

Online resources

Visit www.gov.bc.ca/minorailments for links to PharmaCare MACS policy, the list of PINS that pharmacists use to record MACS assessments, the PPMAC Regulatory Education module, and the BC Health Professions Act Bylaws Schedule F, Part 8 – Pharmacist Diagnosing and Prescribing.