



Published by the Pharmaceutical Services Division to provide information for British Columbia's health care providers

QuickLinks

PharmaCare Website Change ..... 1

May Remittances to Pharmacies ..... 2

Implementation of the Frequency of Dispensing Transition Strategy..... 2

    Transition Strategy—Schedule of Adjustments ..... 2

    Transition Strategy—Methodology ..... 2

    Transition Strategy—Remittance Advices ..... 3

Correct Quantities for Claims..... 3

Multi-Source Generics Pricing Policy Products—Changes to Cost Reduction Factors for Specific Products ..... 4

## PHARMACARE WEBSITE CHANGE

In mid-June, visit us at our new Web address:

[www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare)

Along with its new address, the website will have a fresh, new look.

Content on the site is not changing, but a new, more comprehensive **Site Index** will allow you to find the information you need quickly.

The **Pharmacists and Medical Suppliers** section, accessible from the home page, will continue to be updated with the latest information.

*When the change occurs, any previously bookmarked Web pages will be redirected to the new address automatically.*

The use of PharmaNet is not intended as a substitute for professional judgment.  
Information on PharmaNet is not exhaustive and cannot be relied upon as complete.  
The absence of a warning about a drug or drug combination is not an indication that the drug or drug combination is safe, appropriate or effective in any given patient.  
Health care professionals should confirm information obtained from PharmaNet, and ensure no additional relevant information exists, before making patient care decisions.

## MAY REMITTANCES TO PHARMACIES

**Next payment of  
Clinical Services Fees:  
August 4<sup>th</sup>**

Remittance Advices for **June 1** will include adjustments for:

Frequency of Dispensing Transition Strategy..... for February 2009

Interim Multi-Source Generics Pricing Policy<sup>1</sup> ..... for April 2009

If either of the adjustments listed above applies to your payment, additional information will be enclosed with your Remittance Advice.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FREQUENCY OF DISPENSING TRANSITION STRATEGY

### Transition Strategy—Schedule of Adjustments

The first payment adjustments under the Frequency of Dispensing Transition Strategy will occur on **June 1**. Adjustments will be made only for claims submitted in February 2009. Adjustments for subsequent months will be phased in as shown to the right →

Frequency of dispensing adjustments for..	Will appear on the scheduled payment on...
February	01-Jun-09
March	06-Jul-09
April	04-Aug-09
May	31-Aug-09
June	05-Oct-09

### Transition Strategy—Methodology

As indicated in the previous newsletter, to ease the burden on pharmacies and ensure equitable compliance with the Frequency of Dispensing policy, the management committee agreed to a Transition Strategy. Implementing this strategy until the PharmaNet solution is in place reduces the workload for pharmacists in billing and manually adjusting fees above the cap to \$0.00. If they prefer, pharmacists may continue entering a \$0.00 fee manually.

Whereas the PharmaNet solution will enable pharmacists to effect real-time adjudication, the Transition Strategy uses retrospective review of patterns of dispensing in transaction data. This ensures the maximum allowable fees under the Frequency of Dispensing policy will be applied only when there is an evident, historical pattern of frequent dispensing.

Furthermore, the management committee recognizes that no model can be 100% accurate and that many possible variations exist when dispensing to meet the diverse health care needs of patients. To allow for potential differences between the Transition Strategy and the permanent PharmaNet solution, the Transition Strategy model limits application of the Frequency of Dispensing caps (three fees for daily dispensing and five fees for 2-27 day dispensing) as outlined below, reduces the total adjustment by 5% to allow for minor difference between the transition strategy and the permanent PharmaNet solution, and waives the adjustment completely if the total adjustment for a pharmacy is less than \$100.

<sup>1</sup> Currently, only quetiapine is subject to deductions pursuant to the policy. For a list of the quetiapine DINs subject to the policy, please visit [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme/suppliers/multigen.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme/suppliers/multigen.html).

Specifically, the Transition Strategy model:

- Excludes claims:
  - with a days' supply of 28 days or more
  - to which PharmaCare did not contribute to the cost
  - for residential patients covered under PharmaCare Plan B
  - for antibiotics and insulin
  - for all one-time, short term medications (i.e., those with a supply of 27 days or less).
- Reduces the total adjustment by 5% (allowance for potential differences as noted above).
- Applies an adjustment to payment only if the total adjustment for a pharmacy exceeds \$100.

Note that the accommodations for the transition period do not change the Frequency of Dispensing Policy as described in [PharmaCare Newsletter 09-002](#) and [09-003](#).

## Transition Strategy—Remittance Advices

---

If your pharmacy dispensed medications daily or in 2- to 27-day supplies in February 2009 and did not enter a \$0 dispensing fee above the maximum number of fees allowed:

- one new line will appear on your Remittance Advice indicating the amount being debited.
- A Summary Report will be provided with a cover letter explaining its contents.

**If your pharmacy requires more information** for account reconciliation than the Summary Report contains, a detailed report is available on request. The detailed report lists the individual dispensing fees deducted (i.e., those above the maximum) for each Personal Health Number (PHN) on each applicable service date. The report is in order of PHN.

To request the more detailed report, call the PharmaNet HelpDesk. Reports will be sent by courier.

**Please allow five business days for delivery.**



If, after receiving your Remittance advice and the accompanying report, you have questions about your pharmacy's adjustment, please send an e-mail to [pharma@gov.bc.ca](mailto:pharma@gov.bc.ca).

---

## CORRECT QUANTITIES FOR CLAIMS

A detailed list of the correct quantities to use when submitting claims to PharmaCare is available on our website. The list includes many commonly prescribed injectable medications and other products.

To access the list, visit our home page at [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme) and select [Pharmacists and Other Medical Suppliers](#) from the left-hand Contents menu.

Would you like to request the addition of a specific product to this online list? E-mail your suggestions to [pharma@gov.bc.ca](mailto:pharma@gov.bc.ca).

## MULTI-SOURCE GENERICS PRICING POLICY PRODUCTS—CHANGES TO COST REDUCTION FACTORS FOR SPECIFIC PRODUCTS

The cost reduction factors for the products below have been adjusted to reflect a change in pricing.

DIN	Product	Effective Date of Pricing Policy	Cost Reduction Factor
<b>QUETIAPINE FUMARATE TAB 25mg</b>			
2307804	GEN-QUETIAPINE	Jan 01, 2009 – Apr 27, 2009	28.57%
		Apr 28, 2009 –	28.05%
2284235	NOVO-QUETIAPINE	Jan 01, 2009 – Mar 22, 2009	28.57%
		Mar 23, 2009 –	28.05%
2313901	APO-QUETIAPINE	Jan 01, 2009 – Apr 08, 2009	28.57%
		Apr 09, 2009 –	28.05%
<b>QUETIAPINE FUMARATE TAB 100mg</b>			
2307812	GEN-QUETIAPINE	Jan 01, 2009 – Apr 27, 2009	28.57%
		Apr 28, 2009 –	28.06%
2284243	NOVO-QUETIAPINE	Jan 01, 2009 – Mar 22, 2009	28.57%
		Mar 23, 2009 –	28.06%
2313928	APO-QUETIAPINE	Jan 01, 2009 – Apr 08, 2009	28.57%
		Apr 09, 2009 –	28.06%
<b>QUETIAPINE FUMARATE TAB 200mg</b>			
2307839	GEN-QUETIAPINE	Jan 01, 2009 – Apr 27, 2009	28.56%
		Apr 28, 2009 –	28.06%
2284278	NOVO-QUETIAPINE	Jan 01, 2009 – Mar 22, 2009	28.56%
		Mar 23, 2009 –	28.06%
2313936	APO-QUETIAPINE	Jan 01, 2009 – Apr 08, 2009	28.56%
		Apr 09, 2009 –	28.06%
<b>QUETIAPINE FUMARATE TAB 300mg</b>			
2307847	GEN-QUETIAPINE	Jan 01, 2009 – Apr 27, 2009	28.57%
		Apr 28, 2009 –	28.06%
2284286	NOVO-QUETIAPINE	Jan 01, 2009 – Mar 22, 2009	28.57%
		Mar 23, 2009 –	28.06%
2313944	APO-QUETIAPINE	Jan 01, 2009 – Apr 08, 2009	28.57%
		Apr 09, 2009 –	28.06%

Full information on the Interim Multi-Source Generics Pricing Policy and related products is available on the PharmaCare website at [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme/suppliers/multigen.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme/suppliers/multigen.html).