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**OLANZAPINE —
 SPECIFIC PRODUCTS NO LONGER ELIGIBLE FOR PHARMACARE COVERAGE**

Olanzapine Orally Disintegrating Tablets (ODT)

In the [November 18, 2009 edition](#) of the BC PharmaCare Newsletter, PharmaCare announced coverage of generic olanzapine ODT. The drugs were to become subject to the Multiple-Source Generics Pricing Policy (MSGPP) on November 6, 2009 and changes to the Low Cost Alternative (LCA) categories were to come into effect on December 21, 2009.

The Sandoz and Cobalt olanzapine ODT products in the table below have been delisted as the manufacturers have informed PharmaCare of ongoing supply issues.

PharmaCare coverage is therefore discontinued for the Cobalt and Sandoz olanzapine ODT products shown below, effective November 30, 2009. Cost reduction factors for olanzapine ODT categories will not apply and will not affect pharmacy reimbursements.

CHEMICAL NAME	DIN	BRAND NAME
OLANZAPINE 5mg ODT	2327562	CO OLANZAPINE ODT
	2327775	SANDOZ OLANZAPINE ODT
OLANZAPINE 10mg ODT	2327570	CO OLANZAPINE ODT
	2327783	SANDOZ OLANZAPINE ODT
OLANZAPINE 15mg ODT	2327589	CO OLANZAPINE ODT
	2327791	SANDOZ OLANZAPINE ODT
OLANZAPINE 20mg ODT	2327597	CO OLANZAPINE ODT
	2327805	SANDOZ OLANZAPINE ODT

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.

Until PharmaCare coverage is reinstated, there will be no reimbursement for the products shown above and retroactive payment will not be provided.

When the manufacturers confirm stock availability, we will initiate the process to reinstate coverage. At that point, appropriate policies will be applied, including the MSGPP and the LCA policy.

Please see the table below for the updated olanzapine ODT LCA categories.

Olanzapine ODT - LCA Categories effective December 21, 2009

NEW CATEGORY (CHEMICAL NAME)	DIN	BRAND NAME	LCA STATUS	LCA PRICE	RDP	COST REDUCTION FACTOR
OLANZAPINE 5mg ODT	2303191	PMS-OLANZAPINE ODT	F*		No	No
	2243086	ZYPREXA ZYDIS®	P*	1.8550	No	No
OLANZAPINE 10mg ODT	2303205	PMS-OLANZAPINE ODT	F*		No	No
	2243087	ZYPREXA ZYDIS®	P*	3.7070	No	No
OLANZAPINE 15mg ODT	2303213	PMS-OLANZAPINE ODT	F*		No	No
	2243088	ZYPREXA ZYDIS®	P*	5.5587	No	No
OLANZAPINE 20mg ODT	2243089	ZYPREXA ZYDIS®	F*		No	No
F* – Drug is a full benefit if Special Authority is in place when the prescription is filled.			P* – Drug is a partial benefit if Special Authority is in place when the prescription is filled.			

Olanzapine 20mg Tablets

Also in the [November 18, 2009 edition](#) of the BC PharmaCare Newsletter, PharmaCare announced coverage of the generic product: Cobalt olanzapine 20 mg tablets (DIN 2325713). This product was to be included as a new LCA category on PharmaNet effective December 21, 2009.

This product has been delisted because the manufacturer has informed PharmaCare of ongoing supply issues.

PharmaCare coverage is therefore discontinued for Cobalt olanzapine 20 mg tablets, effective December 3, 2009. As a result of this change, ZYPREXA® 20mg tablets have reverted to full benefit status, effective the same date.

Until PharmaCare coverage is reinstated, there will be no reimbursement for Cobalt olanzapine 20 mg tablets (DIN 2325713) and retroactive payment will not be provided.

Once the manufacturer confirms stock availability, we will initiate the process to reinstate coverage. At that point, appropriate policies will be applied, including the MSGPP and LCA policy.

RE-DISTRIBUTION OF PROVINCIAL PANDEMIC ANTIVIRAL SUPPLY IN PHARMACIES

There are currently over 800,000 doses of antivirals in community pharmacies.

Given the recent downward trend in the incidence of H1N1 in B.C. communities, the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) is reducing and re-distributing the inventory in community pharmacies.

Effective November 22, 2009, the maximum amount shipped per order was reduced to:

Dose	Courses of treatment shipped per order
30 mg	5
45 mg	5
75 mg	20

This ensures pharmacies have sufficient supply to meet community needs while decreasing excess inventory.

Re-distribution of Pharmacy Inventory of Pandemic Supply

- The BCCDC is re-distributing the pharmacy inventory of provincial pandemic antivirals.
- BCCDC has categorized pharmacies according to the volume of antivirals they are dispensing (i.e., low-volume or high-volume). Excess antiviral stock in low-volume pharmacies is being re-directed to high-volume pharmacies.
- Low-volume pharmacies will retain a smaller inventory of antivirals.
- The BCCDC will contact low- and high-volume pharmacies directly to advise them of the amount of stock that will be collected/delivered.
- Shipping of inventory will be arranged and funded by the BCCDC.

NEW! PATIENT INFORMATION SHEETS

There are now four plain language information sheets about the Fair PharmaCare plan available on the PharmaCare website:

- General Fair PharmaCare Plan Information
- Fair PharmaCare Information for New Residents
- Fair PharmaCare & Income Reviews
- The Monthly Deductible Payment Option

The sheets are available in the **Publications** section of the PharmaCare website (just look under "Patient Information Sheets" on www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/publications.html).

We hope you find these useful in responding to enquiries.



SPECIAL SERVICES FEES

The number of Special Services fees that PharmaCare paid each month over the past year:

Nov 2009.....2,584	Jul 2009..... 2,619	Mar 2009..... 2,252
Oct 20092,758	Jun 2009 2,554	Feb 2009 2,100
Sep 20092,643	May 2009 2,357	Jan 2009 2,131
Aug 2009.....2,212	Apr 2009..... 2,347	Dec 2008 3,526