



For British Columbia's PharmaNet Users

Upcoming Changes to PharmaNet for Automated Tracking of Fees for Frequent Dispensing

Since the December 2008 signing of the Interim Agreement, the Ministry of Health Services has been working with stakeholders, PharmaNet developers and software vendors to upgrade PharmaNet to support the Frequency of Dispensing policy. Although it was recognized in the initial discussions regarding the Interim Agreement that changes to PharmaNet could not be implemented by the effective date of the policy, all parties agreed that speedy completion would be needed to reduce pharmacist workloads.

In consultation with developers and software vendors, a target implementation date of **June 30, 2009**, has been set. Every effort will be made to meet that date.

What the Enhanced System Will Do

PharmaNet will track the number of dispensing fees for daily dispensing and dispensing of 2- to 27-day supplies. Pharmacists will not be required to track the number of dispensing fees claimed or to enter \$0.00 dispensing fees above the maximum number of fees allowable. The system will:

- automatically determine when the maximum number of fees allowable has been claimed
- provide information on the frequency of dispensing fee adjudication results for each transaction, including information to support claims-routing to other insurers using in-pharmacy software
- facilitate exclusion of medications not affected by the policy
- allow patients to choose frequent dispensing at their own expense

Progress to Date

The ministry's Pharmaceutical Services Division, PharmaNet software developers (including MAXIMUS BC and Systems Xcellence Inc.), and the BC Pharmacy Association, College of Pharmacists BC, pharmacy software vendors, and private insurers met on February 25, 2009, to discuss policy and technical issues around implementing the terms of the Interim Agreement.

Since those discussions, significant progress has been made. The business requirements for the PharmaNet enhancements are almost complete, and development is underway.

At the February 25 meeting, it was agreed that software vendors and ministry representatives will continue to meet regularly to support a smooth roll-out of the enhancements.

Additional information will be provided in PharmaCare Newsletters and PharmaNet Bulletins.

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.