



For British Columbia's PharmaNet Users

Botox 100 and 200 Unit Vial Sizes ~ Potential for Dosing Errors ~ ~ Update to Correct Quantity for Claims ~

Botox vials from Allergan, Inc. are now available in 100 units per vial and 200 units per vial sizes. Because they contain the same concentration of active ingredient, both sizes are identified with the **same** DIN (1981501) and appear in the PharmaNet system by default as 100 units per vial.

This could lead to dosing errors. Other practitioners, especially Emergency Department physicians and hospital pharmacists, rely on the information in the PharmaNet profile when determining what doses the patient has already had and what doses to re-prescribe.

Preventing one-DIN-per-drug-entity dosing errors

To prevent dosing errors, pharmacists should:

Restate the dose (including concentration) in the SIG field for display on PharmaNet, for example, "inject one 200 unit vial)."

Ensuring the dosage information displays properly

The display size of the SIG field on PharmaNet is **only 80 characters long**, which may be much smaller than a pharmacy's local system. To ensure the dosage information appears on everyone's display, **place the information at the beginning of the field.**

Note: Health Canada's one-DIN-per-drug-entity policy may affect other drugs marketed in unit dose syringes, vials or packs of the same concentration but varying volumes. Pharmacists should follow the same best practice of always:

- re-stating the exact dose in the SIG field for other affected DINs
- ensuring doses are confirmed in hospital and clinical settings before new orders are written and filled.

Correct Quantity for Submitting Claims

To facilitate coordination of benefits, the basis for reimbursing Botox has been changed in PharmaNet. It is now based on the cost **per unit** (rather than per vial). To ensure appropriate coverage:

- for a 100 units per vial, enter the quantity as **100**
- for a 200 units per vial, enter the quantity as **200**

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.