



BC PharmaCare Newsletter

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PHARMACY SERVICES AGREEMENT – UPDATE #7

Inducements - Update

[PharmaCare Newsletter 10-014](#) stated that PharmaCare would defer enforcement of the PharmaCare Enrolment Agreement (the Agreement) requirements in respect to prescription transfer programs until July 4, 2011.

PharmaCare had reviewed prescription transfer programs and determined that they are generally analogous to customer loyalty programs that award points for prescription purchases. For loyalty programs in existence before October 15, 2010, PharmaCare had already deferred enforcement until July 4, 2010. This deferral was to allow pharmacies time to decommission existing programs, which might require making changes to technology or marketing contracts.

Some pharmacies have noted that, by grandfathering existing programs, PharmaCare may have inadvertently provided short-term competitive advantage to pharmacies with these programs. In response, PharmaCare is deferring enforcement of the requirements set out in the Agreement with respect to **all** loyalty programs, including prescription transfer programs, until July 4, 2011.

PharmaCare expects that, by that date, pharmacies will have fulfilled all commitments to customers under programs that offer inducements to secure prescription orders.

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.

FEDERAL COVERAGE AND PHARMACARE COVERAGE

Please note that PharmaCare is not the first payer for patients covered by the following federal plans:

- Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC)
- Canadian Forces
- Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

PharmaCare does not cover drug costs for these patients when they are full benefits under a federal plan. Only costs not reimbursed through federal coverage may be eligible for PharmaCare coverage.

BUPRENORPHINE PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS (PINS) DISCONTINUED

In the past, at the request of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of B.C., PharmaCare advised pharmacies to enter claims for buprenorphine using Product Identification Numbers (PINs) instead of DINs.

The College has agreed that the PINs are no longer needed. Effective immediately, please **discontinue using PINs when dispensing buprenorphine** and revert to using the appropriate DINs.

Please note that the single ingredient buprenorphine product, Subutex[®], is a non-benefit.

SPECIAL SERVICES FEES

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

Nov 2010 2,134	Jul 2010 1,999	Mar 2010 2,109
Oct 2010 1,978	Jun 2010 2,233	Feb 2010 1,832
Sep 2010 2,211	May 2010 ... 2,097	Jan 2010 1,731
Aug 2010 2,170	Apr 2010 2,108	Dec 2009 3,103

BENEFITS

Propoxyphene

On December 1, 2010, Paladin Labs Inc., in collaboration with Health Canada, announced voluntary recalls and withdrawal of all lots of propoxyphene (Darvon N[®]) from the Canadian market and discontinuation of sales of this product. This decision followed a United States Food and Drug Administration request that all manufacturers of propoxyphene withdraw the product from the U.S. market. Patients are advised to contact their health care professionals for further information.

For more information, see Health Canada's website at:

hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/public/2010/darvon-n_pc-cp-eng.php.

continued...

Propoxyphene was a Limited Coverage benefit. Effective immediately, PharmaCare coverage is withdrawn for the following products containing propoxyphene.

DIN	DRUG NAME
10081	642 TAB (propoxyphene) 65 mg tablet
151351	NOVO-PROPOXYN CAP 65MG (propoxyphene) 65 mg tablet
108146	692 TAB (propoxyphene/ASA/caffeine) 65 mg / 375 mg / 30 mg tablet
277118	NOVO-PROPOXYN COMPOUND CAP (propoxyphene/ASA/caffeine) 65 mg / 375 mg / 30 mg capsule
261432	DARVON-N (propoxyphene) 100 mg capsule
261440	DARVON N W ASA PULVULE 393 (propoxyphene/ASA) 100 mg / 325 mg tablet
261459	DARVON N COMPOUND PULVULE 405 (propoxyphene/ASA/caffeine) 100 mg / 375 mg / 30 mg capsule