



For British Columbia's PharmaNet Users

New Requirements for Wireless Access to PharmaNet

Effective **October 14, 2010**, the Ministry of Health Services allowed wireless access to PharmaNet. If you use wireless access, you must comply with the following requirements.

1. Compliance with OCIO wireless standards



Your secure wireless Local Area Network and equipment must comply with the wireless standards specified by the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) of BC. These standards are set forth in Sections 5.9 to 5.11 of the Information Management/Information Technology Standards Manual available at www.cio.gov.bc.ca/local/cio/standards/documents/standards/standards_manual.pdf.

Note: Although the heading for Section 5.11 states "Control Standard for a Large, Complex Organization," the entire standard applies to all organizations, regardless of size.

2. Staff Training

You must ensure that you provide all new and current employees with information about your facility's wireless policy and procedures as it relates to access to PharmaNet.

3. Incident Reporting

You must ensure that employees report all information security incidents to whoever signed the Attestation of Compliance. Security incidents are defined in the Government of British Columbia's Information Security Policy at www.cio.gov.bc.ca/local/cio/informationsecurity/policy/isp.pdf.

You must also handle any incidents in accordance with the OCIO wireless standards.

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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.

4. Completing an Attestation of Compliance

Attestation Agreements are available through the Health Data Access Services website at www.health.gov.bc.ca/access.

Authorized signatories

Organization/Business	Authorized Signatory
Hospital, Emergency Department, or Designated Mental Health Facility	Chief Executive, Information, or Operating Officer of the facility or health authority
Pharmacy	Person who signed the PharmaCare Enrolment Agreement for the facility
Medical Practice	Physician who signed the Medical Practice Access to PharmaNet Agreement

Submitting your signed attestation

Pharmacies should send their signed Attestation of Compliance to:

Health Insurance British Columbia
Information Support
3rd Floor, 716 Yates St
Victoria BC V8W 1L4
Fax: (250) 405-3599

All other points of service should send their signed Attestation of Compliance to:

Data Access, Research and Stewardship
Health Sector IM/IT Division
Ministry of Health Services
1-1, 1515 Blanshard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 3C8
Fax: (250) 952-1119

Ministry confirmation

Once you receive an e-mail confirmation from the Ministry, you may implement wireless access to PharmaNet.

Attestation term limits

You will need to renew your attestation every two years. The ministry, however, reserves the right to require re-attestation at any time (e.g., following the publication of major changes to the wireless standards).

Failure to comply

Facilities that do not satisfy these requirements are not permitted to use wireless technology to access PharmaNet. Any facility that fails to comply with the above procedures in the deployment and use of wireless technology will have to terminate their wireless connection to PharmaNet and any other systems the Ministry specifies.

Need help or information?

For assistance, contact the Ministry of Health Services HelpDesk at HIth.Helpdesk@gov.bc.ca.