



PharmaNet Bulletin

For British Columbia's PharmaNet Users

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PharmaNet Modernization - Update

The Ministry of Health Services is moving forward with the PharmaNet Modernization project (formerly known as eDrug) that will add two major improvements to the existing PharmaNet system:

1 **Electronic prescribing**

Prescribers will be able to use electronic medical record systems to create, modify and transmit prescriptions directly to PharmaNet. Pharmacies will be able to retrieve the electronic prescriptions from PharmaNet and then record the details of the dispense transactions.

2 **Adjudication and payment of claims for clinical services**

PharmaNet will support additional data collection and real-time adjudication of claims for pharmacy clinical services, including prescription adaptation and medication management services.



Scope, deliverables and timelines

Earlier this year, the Ministry revised the scope of the planned changes to PharmaNet and defined a new timeline and set of deliverables. By March 31, 2012, the Ministry plans to have:

- developed the enhanced electronic prescribing and clinical service adjudication features in PharmaNet ,
- deployed the enhanced PharmaNet application with a pilot group of medical practices and pharmacies, and
- published the conformance specifications that electronic medical record vendors and pharmacy point-of-service (PoS) system vendors will need to follow when updating their software to use these new features.

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In preparation for these enhancements, the Ministry has already replaced the network connections for 600 pharmacy sites. Plans are underway to allow PharmaNet to handle greater numbers of transactions.

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.

Stakeholder involvement

The Ministry recognizes the important role that stakeholders play in this modernization and has asked the BC Pharmacy Association, the College of Pharmacists of BC, the BC Medical Association and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC to participate in the process. They are assisting the Ministry to define requirements, understand workflow challenges and develop a deployment strategy and schedule.

In the first quarter of 2011, the Ministry will consult with PoS software developers about the conformance standards for the electronic prescribing and expanded adjudication features.

Preliminary development and deployment schedule

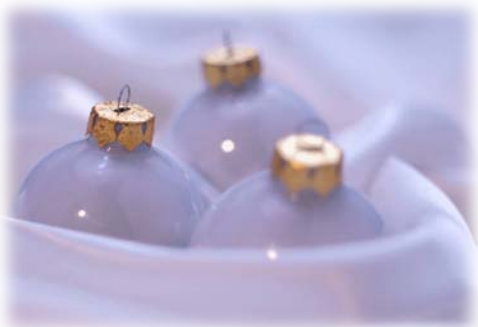
The Ministry is planning a gradual roll-out of the enhanced PharmaNet system. Not all pharmacies and medical offices are expected to adopt the new system by April 2012.

The Ministry and stakeholders are working to develop a detailed strategy for the roll out.

Development and Deployment Milestones and Dates	
Complete detailed business requirements and technical design	Mar 2011
Finalize draft conformance specifications for PoS systems	Mar 2011
Select vendors to pilot PoS system upgrades and refine the conformance specifications	Apr - Oct 2011
Complete conformance testing with selected pilot vendors	Nov 2011
Activate and deploy PharmaNet upgrades. There is no impact to existing PharmaNet users	Mar 2012
Start deploying new functionality to points of service	Apr 2012 onward
Upgrade PharmaNet infrastructure	Apr 2012 onward

Further details on the PharmaNet Modernization project will be published in upcoming issues of the PharmaNet Bulletin.

Holiday Hours for Help Desk



The PharmaNet Help Desk will be closed from:

- 10:15 p.m. December 24 *until*
- 10:15 p.m. December 25

If you experience connection problems during this time, please call (250) 361-5790.

The Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system will be available via the Help Desk phone numbers.

Year-End Change Window

To allow for annual routine maintenance activities the:

- **Health Insurance BC (HIBC) representatives** will be unable to view or make changes to existing Fair PharmaCare records from 8 a.m. December 31 until 8 a.m. January 1.
- **HIBC representatives** will be able to register callers for Fair PharmaCare until noon December 31. Full phone registration services for Fair PharmaCare will resume no later than 8 a.m. on January 1.
- **Fair PharmaCare Registration website** will be unavailable starting at noon December 31. We anticipate service will resume before 8 a.m. on January 1.

2011 Pharmacy Payment Schedule

Following is the payment schedule for 2011. Payment periods run Tuesday through Monday. The payment date may vary if a statutory holiday is included in the payment period.

PharmaCare Pharmacy Remittance – Payment Periods 2011

START DATE (12 a.m. Tuesday)	END Date (Monday)	SCHEDULED PAYMENT DATE
21-Dec-10	27-Dec-10	4-Jan-11
28-Dec-10	3-Jan-11	10-Jan-11
4-Jan-11	10-Jan-11	17-Jan-11
11-Jan-11	17-Jan-11	24-Jan-11
18-Jan-11	24-Jan-11	31-Jan-11
25-Jan-11	31-Jan-11	7-Feb-11
1-Feb-11	7-Feb-11	14-Feb-11
8-Feb-11	14-Feb-11	21-Feb-11
15-Feb-11	21-Feb-11	28-Feb-11
22-Feb-11	28-Feb-11	7-Mar-11
1-Mar-11	7-Mar-11	14-Mar-11
8-Mar-11	14-Mar-11	21-Mar-11
15-Mar-11	21-Mar-11	28-Mar-11
22-Mar-11	28-Mar-11	4-Apr-11
29-Mar-11	4-Apr-11	11-Apr-11
5-Apr-11	11-Apr-11	18-Apr-11
12-Apr-11	18-Apr-11	27-Apr-11
19-Apr-11	25-Apr-11	2-May-11
26-Apr-11	2-May-11	9-May-11
3-May-11	9-May-11	16-May-11
10-May-11	16-May-11	24-May-11

START DATE (12 a.m. Tuesday)	END Date (Monday)	SCHEDULED PAYMENT DATE
17-May-11	23-May-11	30-May-11
24-May-11	30-May-11	6-Jun-11
31-May-11	6-Jun-11	13-Jun-11
7-Jun-11	13-Jun-11	20-Jun-11
14-Jun-11	20-Jun-11	27-Jun-11
21-Jun-11	27-Jun-11	5-Jul-11
28-Jun-11	4-Jul-11	11-Jul-11
5-Jul-11	11-Jul-11	18-Jul-11
12-Jul-11	18-Jul-11	25-Jul-11
19-Jul-11	25-Jul-11	2-Aug-11
26-Jul-11	1-Aug-11	8-Aug-11
2-Aug-11	8-Aug-11	15-Aug-11
9-Aug-11	15-Aug-11	22-Aug-11
16-Aug-11	22-Aug-11	29-Aug-11
23-Aug-11	29-Aug-11	6-Sep-11
30-Aug-11	5-Sep-11	12-Sep-11
6-Sep-11	12-Sep-11	19-Sep-11
13-Sep-11	19-Sep-11	26-Sep-11
20-Sep-11	26-Sep-11	3-Oct-11
27-Sep-11	3-Oct-11	11-Oct-11
4-Oct-11	10-Oct-11	17-Oct-11
11-Oct-11	17-Oct-11	24-Oct-11
18-Oct-11	24-Oct-11	31-Oct-11
25-Oct-11	31-Oct-11	7-Nov-11
1-Nov-11	7-Nov-11	15-Nov-11
8-Nov-11	14-Nov-11	21-Nov-11
15-Nov-11	21-Nov-11	28-Nov-11
22-Nov-11	28-Nov-11	5-Dec-11
29-Nov-11	5-Dec-11	12-Dec-11
6-Dec-11	12-Dec-11	19-Dec-11
13-Dec-11	19-Dec-11	28-Dec-11