



# BC PharmaCare Newsletter

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## EXPANDED ACCESS TO PUBLICLY FUNDED VACCINES

The Ministry of Health is pleased to announce that, starting in 2013, authorized pharmacists will be able to offer a wider range of pharmacist-administered injections of publicly funded vaccines to eligible adults and children over 5 years of age.

The Ministry has worked in partnership with the BC Pharmacy Association, BC Centre for Disease Control, College of Pharmacists of BC, University of British Columbia and regional health authorities to increase pharmacist participation in the administration of these publicly funded immunizations.

This follows the valuable assistance pharmacists have provided in protecting British Columbians from viral illnesses such as influenza, pneumonia, measles, pertussis, and human papillomavirus (HPV) in recent years.



*Continued on page 2...*

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.

## EXPANDED ACCESS TO PUBLICLY FUNDED VACCINES—CONTINUED

Each health authority is currently preparing information on ordering procedures and documentation requirements, and will communicate these to pharmacists through website postings, e-mails, and/or fax notices.

<b>Key Dates</b>	<p><b>January 7, 2013</b>—The anticipated date that pharmacists can start placing orders with their local health units.</p> <p><b>February 4, 2013</b>—Health units expect to be able to start filling pharmacists' vaccine orders.</p> <p><i>Please note that these dates may vary by health authority.</i></p>
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## New Vaccine Resource Web Page

For your convenience, we have created a new [Vaccine Resource](#) page on the PharmaCare website devoted entirely to vaccine information for pharmacists.

Visit [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/vaccines.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/vaccines.html) for:

- Updated general information regarding vaccine procedures, special programs, and individual products
- Individual information sheets for publicly funded vaccine products (which include the criteria for pharmacist access)
- Link to the claims procedures in the PharmaCare Policy Manual
- The full list of PINs for publicly funded vaccines

Pharmacists interested in administering more publicly funded vaccines are encouraged to start planning and updating their knowledge about vaccines used within public vaccination programs.

## COMPOUND PRESCRIPTION POLICY—IMPORTANT UPDATE

Following the announcement of the new Compound Prescription policy, PharmaCare was advised that pharmacy software might have problems directing necessary information to private insurers after PharmaNet adjudication. We are investigating solutions to accommodate this software-specific problem.

In the interim:

If your pharmacy cannot integrate the new benefit compound PINs with your local system, you may use the old compound PINs until **January 28, 2013**. Otherwise, please continue using the new, more specific PINs.

Please submit all claims, regardless of whether you are using the old or new PINs, in accordance with the former (pre-December 10th) policy and procedures (e.g., enter reasonable and appropriate amounts for ingredient costs, compounding fees, and equipment and supply costs in the **Drug Cost** field).

More information regarding solutions will be provided in a future newsletter.

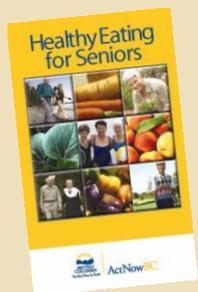
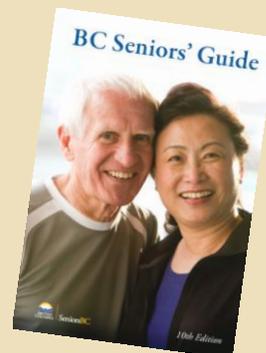
Please also note that compounds are subject to the Full Payment Policy. That is, pharmacies must not charge any amount directly to an individual receiving full PharmaCare coverage for a full benefit drug. Individuals receiving full PharmaCare coverage are those covered under PharmaCare plans B, C, D, F, G, P, and those that have reached their Fair PharmaCare (Plan I) family maximum.

For more information on the Full Payment Policy, please see [Section 5.10](#) of the PharmaCare Policy Manual.

## INFORMATION FOR SENIORS

Pharmacists may find it useful to know that there are a number of free resources available for their older clients. These resources are designed to help seniors maintain healthy, active lifestyles, and ensure they have the information they need to access programs, support and services. Pharmacists may place bulk orders of the *BC Seniors' Guide* and the *Healthy Eating for Seniors* handbook. See below for details.

The recently updated ***BC Seniors' Guide*** (10th edition) is now available and provides information about government services and programs for seniors, their families and caregivers. To order a free copy of the English guide, please call toll free **1-877-952-3181** or **250-952-3181** in the Victoria area, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. You can also download a PDF copy from the newly enhanced SeniorsBC website at [gov.bc.ca/seniorsguide](http://gov.bc.ca/seniorsguide). The *BC Seniors' Guide* is also being printed in Punjabi, Chinese, and French and can be ordered after **December 20, 2012**, by calling the phone numbers listed above.



The ***Healthy Eating for Seniors*** handbook is available in English, French, Chinese, and Punjabi. It includes tasty recipes for smaller portions and a variety of recipes that have been adjusted to suit ethnic populations. To order a free copy, please call HealthLink BC at **8-1-1** or download a PDF copy from [www.gov.bc.ca/seniorshealthyeating](http://www.gov.bc.ca/seniorshealthyeating). The *Healthy Eating for Seniors* audio book is also available at all public libraries in B.C.

***Move for Life!*** is an easy-to-follow physical activity DVD for seniors. It shows how older adults can stay healthy and strong by adding more physical activity to their daily routine. A free copy of *Move for Life!* is available by calling the Physical Activity Line toll free at **1-877-725-1149** or you can order online at <http://physicalactivityline.com>.



***It's Never Too Late to Quit!*** is a brochure and [website](#) for seniors and long-time smokers, with information on the immediate benefits to quitting and how to access help and support. It features tips on where to get support, as well as the story of Pamela Wray, a senior from Northern B.C. who quit after smoking for 58 years.

For more information and resources on healthy eating, physical activity, fall prevention, advance care planning and other ways to support seniors' healthy living, visit [www.SeniorsBC.ca](http://www.SeniorsBC.ca).

## PHARMACARE AUDIT OF MEDICATION REVIEW SERVICES

Pursuant to PharmaCare Policy and the PharmaCare Enrolment Agreement, all claims to PharmaCare are subject to audit and monies may be recovered if deemed appropriate.

Ministry inspectors have identified possible concerns regarding some claims for medication review service fees and are reviewing documentation records at pharmacies.

Pharmacists are required to retain appropriate and complete documentation for services where service fees are claimed. Documentation requirements for medication review services are described in detail in the PharmaCare Policy Manual, [Section 8.9](#).

## SMOKING CESSATION PROGRAM INFORMATION— NOW IN PHARMACARE POLICY MANUAL

PharmaCare has simplified the website information for pharmacists about the Smoking Cessation Program.

All policy and procedures information formerly provided in the *Smoking Cessation Program Guide* can now be found in the PharmaCare Policy Manual, [Section 5.20](#).

Other key resources remain online at [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/stop-smoking/pcist-intro.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/stop-smoking/pcist-intro.html).



## FAIR PHARMACARE—ANNUAL UPDATE

### Fair PharmaCare deductibles for 2013

On January 1, 2013, PharmaNet will be updated to reflect annual deductibles and family maximums for 2013 for all individuals and families registered in the plan. Deductible accumulations will be reset to zero. Fair PharmaCare coverage levels for 2013 are based on family net income for 2011. Universal Child Care Benefits and income from Registered Disability Savings Plans are not included when determining assistance levels.

### Deductible information for patients for 2013

Fair PharmaCare registrants can access information about their deductible and their family maximum on our **website** or by **contacting Health Insurance BC**.

Through the PharmaCare website at [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare), registrants can:

- use the Fair PharmaCare Calculator to estimate this information, or
- request that a Confirmation of Fair PharmaCare Coverage be mailed to them.

Registrants can also contact Health Insurance BC and provide appropriate identifying information:

- From the Lower Mainland, call **604-683-7151**.
- From the rest of B.C., call toll-free **1-800-663-7100**.

Customer Service Representatives are available Monday to Friday 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

## ANNUAL UPDATE CONTINUED...

### Retroactive reimbursements

PharmaCare reimburses prescription expenses above a family's Fair PharmaCare deductible only if the expenses were incurred after the family registered for the plan—but all eligible prescription costs for the year count toward a family's Fair PharmaCare deductible.

However, if a family qualified for increased assistance during the year, their new, lower deductible and family maximum is applied to any eligible prescriptions purchased after January 1 of the current year **or** the date of the family's Fair PharmaCare registration<sup>1</sup>, whichever is later.

Families do not have to apply for retroactive reimbursement for 2012; it is calculated automatically after year-end. In the spring of 2013, a reimbursement cheque will be mailed to each qualifying individual or family.

## BENEFITS

### Regular Benefits

The following new product is now an eligible PharmaCare benefit for Fair PharmaCare and Plans B, C, and F.

DIN	DRUG NAME
02367971	methylprednisolone sodium succinate (Solu-Medrol®) 1 gm Act-O-Vial preservative-free (PF)

### Limited Coverage Drug Program

**Effective December 18, 2012**, the Limited Coverage criteria for celecoxib (Celebrex®) is changing. For new criteria, please visit the website [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/celecoxib.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/celecoxib.html).

### Cystic Fibrosis Patients Only

The following products are now eligible PharmaCare benefits for patients registered for Plan D only. Please note, however, that actual reimbursement is under the patient's primary plan (Fair PharmaCare, Plan C or Plan F), not under Plan D.

DIN	DRUG NAME
80029414	hypertonic saline (Hyper-Sal®) 7%
80029758	hypertonic sodium chloride solution (Nebusal™) 7%

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<sup>1</sup> The date of a family's registration is considered to be the later of the date the family first registered or the date that a spouse was last added or removed from their Fair PharmaCare record.

## Discontinuation of Coverage

Effective **January 21, 2013**, compounded hypertonic saline and associated supplies will no longer be eligible PharmaCare benefits for cystic fibrosis patients.

DIN/PIN	DRUG NAME
66124603	Hypertonic saline 7% compounded solution
262005	Sodium chloride 14.6 mg/ml injection (to be used in combination with sterile water for injection)
402230	Sodium chloride for injection 23.4% (to be used in combination with sterile water for injection)
2142546	Sterile water for injection (to be used with sodium chloride for injection)