



# BC PharmaCare Newsletter

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## MEASLES OUTBREAK ALERT

A measles outbreak alert was announced in early September in the Fraser Health Region. Authorized pharmacists in Fraser Health are asked to participate in the outbreak response by administering measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine to eligible B.C. residents until notified otherwise by the Medical Health Officer.

For more information, please refer to:

- [Measles Outbreak in Fraser Health](#) on the Fraser Health website
- [Measles, Mumps, and Rubella \(MMR\) – 2013 Measles Outbreak in Fraser Health](#)
- [PharmaCare Vaccine Resources](#) web page



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.

## 2013/14 PROVINCIAL INFLUENZA CAMPAIGN

Pharmacists are invited to participate in the 2013/14 Provincial Influenza Campaign. PharmaCare will pay pharmacists who are authorized to administer immunizations a \$10 fee for each publicly funded vaccine administered by injection to an eligible B.C. resident.

The official launch date of the 2013/14 campaign is **November 4, 2013**. Vaccine may, however, be available before that date, depending on the Health Authority. Pharmacists may offer publicly funded influenza vaccine to eligible B.C. residents as soon as it becomes available in their community.

**Please note:** Before you offer or advertise influenza vaccine and services for private purchase by an individual, you should screen the patients and, if they are eligible, offer them publicly funded influenza vaccine.

If an eligible B.C. resident asks for publicly funded influenza vaccine and you are unable to fulfill their request, you must inform the patient of where publicly funded vaccine services are available.

The publicly funded influenza vaccines available to pharmacists this year are:

PIN	Vaccine
66124873	AGRIFLU® (Novartis)
66124872	FLUAD® (Novartis)
66124765	FLUVIRAL® (GlaxoSmithKline)

Note: A fourth publicly funded influenza vaccine, **FluMist®**, is only available for administration at physician and public health clinics.

Pharmacists can place orders for the vaccines listed above through their local health units. Procedures may vary by health authority. Please contact your local health units/health authority websites for more details.

More information is available from the following resources:

- [Seasonal Influenza Vaccine – 2013/14 Provincial Influenza Campaign](#)
- [2013/14 Provincial Influenza Campaign - Vaccine Comparison Chart](#)
- [Product Identification Numbers \(PINs\) for Publicly Funded Vaccine Administration](#)
- [BCCDC Immunization Manual](#)
- [Immunize BC](#)

## FAIR PHARMACARE REGISTRATION—SERVICE INTERRUPTION



Online and telephone Fair PharmaCare registration will be unavailable **Friday, October 18, 2013**, at **5 p.m.** until **Saturday, October 19, 2013**, at **3:00 a.m.**

During this time, patients will be unable to register for Fair PharmaCare. This regular annual service interruption allows Health Insurance BC to implement appropriate coverage levels for all British Columbians on January 1.

## BENEFITS

### Special Authority Coverage of apixaban (Eliquis®) for atrial fibrillation (AF)

Effective September 19, 2013, apixaban (Eliquis®) for AF will be available as a Limited Coverage benefit through PharmaCare's Special Authority (SA) program.

Detailed criteria, a prescriber information sheet, and the appropriate SA Request form are available on the PharmaCare website at: [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/apixaban-af.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/apixaban-af.html).

Coverage for this drug is subject to the rules of a patient's PharmaCare plan, including any annual deductible requirement. Retroactive coverage cannot be provided for prescriptions filled before SA approval is in place.

### Limited Coverage Drug Program Benefits

The following products are eligible benefits under the Limited Coverage Program—by Special Authority only—for Fair PharmaCare and Plans B, C, and F. For the Special Authority criteria, please visit the [Special Authority Information](#) page on the PharmaCare website at [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare).

DIN	DRUG NAME	PLAN G	PLAN P
2377233	apixaban (Eliquis™) 2.5mg tablet	N	N
2397714	apixaban (Eliquis™) 5mg tablet	N	N
2377098	estradiol (Divigel®) 0.1% transdermal gel	N	N
2394936	glycopyrronium (Seebri® Breezhaler®) 50 µg capsule for inhalation	N	N

### Non-Benefits

The following products have been reviewed and will not be added as benefits under PharmaCare.

DIN	DRUG NAME
2370468	tolvaptan (Samsca®) 15 mg tablet
2370476	tolvaptan (Samsca®) 30 mg tablet