



BC PharmaCare Newsletter

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Subscribe!

Would you like to receive an e-mail notification when a new PharmaCare Newsletter or PharmaNet Bulletin is posted on our website? Visit our [Subscription Service page](#) for more information.

This will be the last mailing of the print version of the PharmaCare newsletter. The digital edition will continue to be posted on the PharmaCare website in an easy-to-print PDF format.

Please note that approved providers are required to abide by PharmaCare policies as published in PharmaCare policy manuals and in PharmaCare Newsletters and PharmaNet Bulletins.

Sign up to receive an e-mail whenever a newsletter or bulletin is published. Visit the PharmaCare Newsletter page at www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarenewsletter today to subscribe.

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.

PHARMANET ACCESS—NURSE PRACTITIONER PILOT

To date, only pharmacists and physicians (and those under their direct supervision) have been able to access PharmaNet. As part of its commitment to enhance health care delivery, the Ministry of Health is preparing to offer expanded access to PharmaNet patient records for other regulated health care professionals.

As part of this expanded access, a pilot is underway to allow nurse practitioners licensed by the [College of Registered Nurses of British Columbia](#) to access PharmaNet. We will keep you informed of the progress on this pilot.

NEW INFORMATION MANAGEMENT REGULATION—EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2015

*The Information Management Regulation comes into force on **June 1, 2015**. It replaces the Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act’s Access to PharmaNet Regulation that expired on May 31, 2015.*

The [Information Management Regulation](#) establishes PharmaNet as “technology” under the *Pharmaceutical Services Act* and provides the authority for clinical and pharmacy users to access PharmaNet and record information in PharmaNet. It also improves user accountability.

Changes under the Regulation

<p>New requirements for the management of newly requested PharmaNet keywords</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective June 1, 2015, providers must follow new policies and procedures for the application, change or removal of keywords—including acceptable identification for patients making such requests at a community pharmacy. <p><i>All existing keywords will remain in place, however new requests to apply, change or remove a keyword must follow the new process.</i></p> <p>>> For information on the new process, see New process for protective words on page 3.</p>
<p>PharmaNet Access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access for existing users will continue unchanged until further notice. • Pharmacists, medical device providers, and physicians who do not yet have access to PharmaNet should continue to use the existing appropriate process for requesting access (e.g., College of Pharmacists of BC, HIBC, Medical Practice Access to PharmaNet (MPAP), Hospital Access to PharmaNet (HAP) or Emergency Department Access to PharmaNet (EDAP), as applicable) • Users may see some changes to processes and documentation (such as forms) as we consolidate and update. • The Minister of Health may now suspend or terminate access, as required. <p>Changes to access to PharmaNet—and management of user access—will be implemented during a transition period between June 1, 2015, and May 31, 2018.</p>

Changes to the Management of PharmaNet Patient Keywords

What is Changing?

1. The term “keyword” will be changed to “protective word.” Your local system software, however, may still refer to it as a “keyword.”
2. More important, there are changes to who may request protective word changes and how they make the request.
3. The proof of identity requirements for applying, changing or removing a protective word have also changed.

New process for protective words

- As usual, **individuals who are 19 years or older** may apply, remove, or change a protective word on their **own** PharmaNet record at any community pharmacy as long as they present the appropriate identification (see below). However, effective June 1, 2015, if they cannot visit a community pharmacy, these individuals can also choose to submit an application form to Health Insurance BC.
- **Individuals who are minors (i.e., under 19 years old)** must now submit an application form to Health Insurance BC to apply, remove, or change a protective word on their own PharmaNet record.
- **Individuals who want to apply, remove, or change another person’s PharmaNet protective word** must also submit an application form to Health Insurance BC. If the other person for whom the request is being made is an adult, the requestor must include documentation supporting their authorization to act on the other person’s behalf.

Patients can access full information, including application forms, on the [Protective Word for a PharmaNet Record](#) web page.

Changes to acceptable patient identification for protective word requests

Proof-of-identity documents are required whenever a person requests that their own PharmaNet protective word be applied, changed, or removed at a community pharmacy—regardless of how long the pharmacist has known the person making the request.

Note: At this time, there are no changes to the patient identification required for other processes (such as assigning PHNs).

Accept **only** the following proofs of identity.

ACCEPTABLE PROOF OF IDENTITY	
DOCUMENT TYPE	REQUIREMENTS/RESTRICTIONS
Option 1	
BC Services Card with photo	Must be valid (not expired) Must display a recent (within 5 years) photo
Option 2	
BC Services Card without photo	Must be valid (not expired)
---- OR----	
BC CareCard	
----AND one of the following pieces of government-issued photo ID----	
Canadian or U.S. Driver’s Licence, Learner’s Licence or Enhanced Driver’s Licence	Must be valid (not expired) Must display a recent (within 5 years) photo
BC Identification (BCID) card or Enhanced Identification Card	Must be valid (not expired) Must display a recent (within 5 years) photo
Passport (Canadian or foreign)	Must be valid (not expired)

ACCEPTABLE PROOF OF IDENTITY	
DOCUMENT TYPE	REQUIREMENTS/RESTRICTIONS
Foreign Government Passport	Must be valid (not expired)
U.S. Passport Card	Must be valid (not expired)
Canadian Citizenship Card	Must be valid (not expired) Must display a recent (within 5 years) photo
Canadian Permanent Resident Card	Must be valid (not expired) Must display a recent (within 5 years) photo
Canadian Forces Identification	Must be valid (not expired) Must display a recent (within 5 years) photo
Royal Canadian Mounted Police Identification	Must be valid (not expired) Must display a recent (within 5 years) photo
Secure Certificate of Indian Status Card	Must be new secure version issued after 2009. Certificate of Indian Status cards issued prior to 2009 are not accepted Must display a recent (within 5 years) photo
Any other credential or evidence approved by the Chief Information Officer for the Province of B.C.	Where an individual is ineligible for one of the required credentials, additional credentials or evidence may be accepted where approved by the Chief Information Officer for the Province of British Columbia as providing equivalent assurance.

Source: "[Evidence of Identity Standard](#)" Office of the Chief Information Officer

Reminders—Appropriate storage of patient protective words

- Protective words can be stored in the local system only with prior, explicit, consent from the patient.
- The individual should be advised that **all** pharmacy staff will be able to view and use the protective word and will not need to ask the individual for it before accessing their PharmaNet record. Protective words can be stored **only** in encrypted form in the local system's software. Consult your software documentation for directions.
- Protective words must not be stored on paper. If a patient writes out the protective word for you to enter into the system, you must either (a) return the paper to the patient for destruction or (b) immediately destroy it in a secure fashion.
- Protective words must not be shared with other pharmacies across a network, even if the pharmacies are part of the same chain.
- You must remove a stored protective word from the local system immediately if the patient requests it.

NEW DRUG PLANS REGULATION—EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2015

*The Drug Plans Regulation comes into force on **June 1, 2015**.*

The [Drug Plans Regulation](#) of the Pharmaceutical Services Act makes no substantive changes to eligibility or coverage under PharmaCare plans.

Please watch for details about the regulation in a future edition of the PharmaCare Newsletter.

PROVIDER INFORMATION CHANGE FORM NOW AVAILABLE



As outlined in the [Enrollment Guide](#)—and in the Welcome Packages that are being sent to enrolled providers—the Provider Regulation requires providers to notify Health Insurance BC of changes in their enrolment information.

Important: Failure to abide by your duties and obligations may result in delay or suspension of payments.

A form is now available and providers are asked to use the new [PharmaCare Provider Change \(HLTH 5433\)](#) form to report any future changes.

To submit a change, complete the first page of the form and any relevant parts (A through K) required.

All enrolment information, including the Enrollment Guide, enrolment forms, and the PharmaCare Provider Change form are available on the Pharmacy Provider web page (www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarepharmacists) and the Device Provider web page (www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacaredeviceproviders).

PHARMACARE POLICY MANUAL UPDATE

The PharmaCare Policy Manual has been updated to reflect changes stemming from the Provider Regulation and the Information Management Regulation. The most recent changes to the policy manual are always indicated in **red text**.

All links within the policy manual have also been updated to reflect the new web page addresses of the Ministry of Health website.

Visit the website at www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarepolicy.

EXCHANGE RATE UPDATE—FOR PROSTHETIC SUPPLIERS

New U.S. Exchange Rate \$1.2146*

***Based on the [Bank of Canada](#) rate
at the close of business on
April 23, 2015.**

The price list for prosthetic components is adjusted, as needed, based on the U.S. Exchange Rate published by the Bank of Canada.

Rates are reviewed regularly and adjusted whenever the rate changes by more than five cents and remains at a variance of five cents or more for at least five working days.