LOW COST ALTERNATIVE/REFERENCE DRUG PROGRAM—REMINDER

As announced in PharmaCare Newsletter 16-001, on April 1, 2016, changes to reimbursement limits for Low Cost Alternative/Reference Drug Program drugs will take effect. These include changes to maximum PharmaCare reimbursement for drugs in the:

- Low Cost Alternative (LCA) Program
- Reference Drug Program (RDP)
- Pan-Canadian Competitive Value Price Initiative for Generic Drugs

Please note that if a patient cannot take an LCA product or an RDP reference drug product, physicians can request Special Authority for full coverage of another drug.

For information on the drugs eligible for coverage as of April 1, 2016, see the “Upcoming LCA/RDP Data Files” at www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarecostalternativeprogram
REGISTRATION PROCESSING CHANGES FOR PLAN G—REMINDER

As noted in our previous newsletter, changes to the process for entering a patient’s coverage under PharmaCare Plan G (No-Charge Psychiatric Medication Plan) may result in slight delays in getting coverage in place.

Before referring a patient back to a physician or Mental Health Substance Use Centre, please contact the PharmaNet HelpDesk at Health Insurance BC regarding the patient’s status. The patient may already be registered and the update to their PharmaNet information pending.

ELIGIBILITY FOR OSTOMY SUPPLIES

Please note that only patients who are ostomates—that is, patients who have had surgery on the bowel and/or bladder that resulted in a colostomy, ileostomy, or urostomy, requiring the application of an external pouch—are eligible for ostomy supplies under the PharmaCare Ostomy Program. PharmaCare does not cover osotomy supplies under any other circumstances.

Determining if a patient is eligible—To determine if a patient is an ostomate, check PharmaNet. Eligible patients normally have a history of purchasing supplies such as ostomy pouches and flanges. If no such purchases appear in the patient’s PharmaNet record, this signals that the items are likely used for non-benefit reasons. In this case, follow up with the patient to confirm whether or not they are an ostomate.

If supplies such as ostomy pouches or flanges are recorded in PharmaNet, proceed with the claim.

More information—For a full list of ostomy benefits and non-benefits, please see PharmaCare Ostomy Benefits.

CORRECT QUANTITIES FOR CLAIMS

A detailed list of the correct quantities to use when submitting claims to PharmaCare is available on the PharmaCare website. The list includes many commonly prescribed injectable medications and other products.

To request the addition of a specific product to this online list, please send an e-mail to pharma@gov.bc.ca

EXCHANGE RATE UPDATE FOR PROSTHETIC SUPPLIERS

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

The price list is adjusted when the rate changes by at least five cents for a period of five or more consecutive business days. The new rate will reflect the closing rate posted on the first day of this period.

New U.S. Exchange Rate $1.3687*
*Based on the Bank of Canada rate at the close of business on February 24, 2016
BENEFITS

Limited Coverage Drug Program

The following products are eligible benefits under the Limited Coverage Program—by Special Authority only—for Fair PharmaCare and Plans B, C, and F and, if indicated, Plan G and/or Plan P.

For information on all Special Authority drugs, visit our Special Authority page.

For criteria and forms for a specific drug, click on the drug name below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVERAGE EFFECTIVE</th>
<th>DRUG NAME</th>
<th>INDICATION</th>
<th>DIN</th>
<th>PLAN G BENEFIT?</th>
<th>PLAN P BENEFIT?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incruse™ Ellipta® (umeclidinium)</td>
<td>Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)</td>
<td>02423596</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regular Benefits

The following new products are now eligible PharmaCare benefits for Fair PharmaCare and Plans B, C, F, and, if indicated below, Plan G and/or Plan P.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIN</th>
<th>DRUG NAME</th>
<th>PLAN G</th>
<th>PLAN P</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02432463</td>
<td>Lodalis™ (colesevelam hydrochloride) 3.75 g powder for oral suspension</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>