



# BC PharmaCare Newsletter

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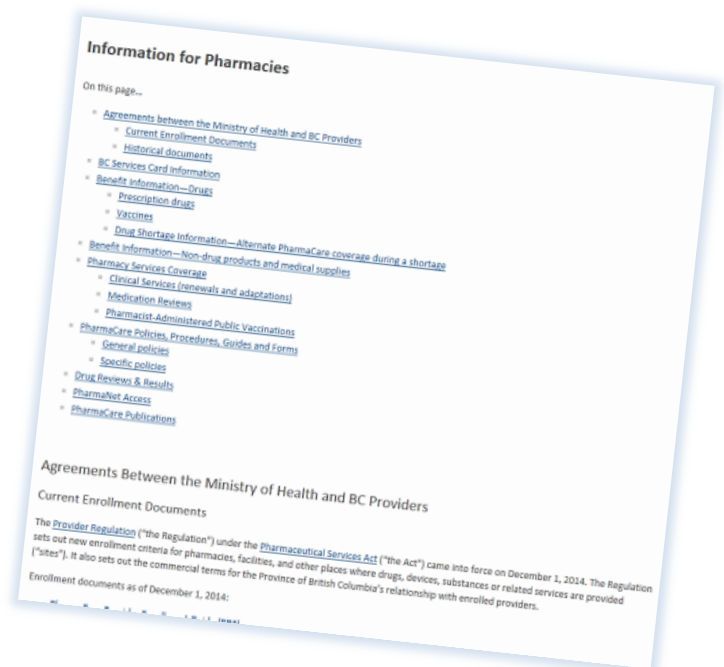
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## PHARMACARE ONLINE RESOURCES FOR PHARMACISTS

Did you know our website provides a page dedicated to the information needs of pharmacists?

Visit [www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarepharmacists](http://www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarepharmacists) for information on:

- enrolling as a PharmaCare provider
- updating your enrollment information
- PharmaCare policies and procedures
- past newsletters
- claims information such as Product Identification Numbers and [correct quantities for claims](#)
- *and more...*



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.

## BENEFITS

### Limited Coverage Drug Program—Infliximab (Inflectra®)

Effective **Nov. 1, 2016**, PharmaCare covers infliximab (Inflectra®) as a Limited Coverage Drug through the Special Authority program for new patients requiring infliximab for the treatment of Crohn’s disease or ulcerative colitis.

PharmaCare will continue covering Remicade® only for patients granted Special Authority approval for that drug for the treatment of moderate to severe Crohn’s disease and fistulising Crohn’s disease before Nov. 1, 2016; these patients will also be covered for the Inflectra brand should they choose to switch.

Inflectra is a “biosimilar” version of infliximab based on Remicade. Health Canada approved Inflectra on Jun. 10, 2016, for the treatment of moderate to severe Crohn’s disease, fistulising Crohn’s disease, and ulcerative colitis. Subsequently, the national Common Drug Review supported its use for these indications.

In fiscal year 2014/15, B.C. PharmaCare and other private payers in the province spent more than \$100 million on Remicade, making it B.C.’s top drug expenditure. Through national price negotiations, the public drug plans negotiated a significantly lower list price of almost 50% less for Inflectra. This price is available to all payers – public and private – garnering savings that can be invested in other health priorities.

See the [detailed Special Authority criteria](#).

Coverage 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 Special Authority approval is in place.

### Getting more information

To find out if your pharmacy is eligible to order Inflectra, please email to [specialtylogistics@innomar-strategies.com](mailto:specialtylogistics@innomar-strategies.com), phone 1-866-949-9927 or fax to 1-866-949-9917

To get more information on the Inflectra Patient Assistance Program, to obtain the most up-to-date list of clinics providing infusion support services for Inflectra, or for information on how to access infusion services patients and health care providers can phone the Inflectra Program Call Centre at 1-844-466-6627 or fax to 1-844-295-0219.

Clinic Name	Clinic Address	City
Burnaby Square Professional Building	7885 6th Street, unit 208	Burnaby
Innomar Kamloops	546 St. Paul Street, Suite 160	Kamloops
Innomar Nanaimo	203-1450 Waddington Road	Nanaimo
Innomar North Vancouver	#117 - 1433 Lonsdale Avenue	North Vancouver
Innomar Surrey	9648 128th Street, Unit 103	Surrey
Innomar Vancouver - Fairmont	750 West Broadway Avenue, Suite 1406	Vancouver
Innomar Abbotsford	2168 McCallum Road, Unit #2	Abbotsford
Innomar Victoria	1590 Cedar Hill Cross Road, Suite 330	Victoria
Innomar Kelowna	3001 Tutt Street # 303	Kelowna
Innomar Cranbrook	44 12th Avenue S.	Cranbrook
Innomar Richmond	6091 Gilbert Road Suite #440	Richmond
Innomar Terrace	4724 Lazelle Avenue	Terrace
Innomar Prince George	1811 Victoria Street, Suite 206	Prince George
Artus Health Centre	839 West Broadway	Vancouver
The Mary Pack Arthritis Centre	895 West 10th Avenue	Vancouver
G.I.R.I./Pacific Gastroenterology Association	#770-1190 Hornby Street	Vancouver
Penticton Infusion Centre	725 Carmi Avenue	Penticton

## Changes to Palliative Care (Plan P) Formulary

Effective Dec. 1, 2016, PharmaCare will no longer cover the following medications under the BC Palliative Care Plan (Plan P):

- **Pantoprazole sodium:** Under the Modernized Reference Drug Program (RDP), pantoprazole sodium is only partially covered whereas pantoprazole magnesium and rabeprazole are fully covered. Pantoprazole magnesium and rabeprazole will, therefore, remain as regular benefits under Plan P. Pantoprazole sodium will be fully covered under Plan P only for patients who meet the [current criteria for Special Authority approval](#).
- **Phenazopyridine:** This medication is no longer commercially available in Canada. PharmaCare does not cover compounded phenazopyridine in lieu of the discontinued commercial product.

### Limited Coverage Drugs

COVERAGE EFFECTIVE	November 1, 2016	
DRUG NAME	<a href="#">Inflectra™ (infliximab)</a>	
INDICATION	Crohn's disease and Ulcerative Colitis	
DIN	02419475	100 mg/vial Powder for solution
PLAN G BENEFIT?	No	
PLAN P BENEFIT?	No	

COVERAGE EFFECTIVE	October 25, 2016	
DRUG NAME	<a href="#">Ferriprox™ (deferiprone)</a>	
INDICATION	Transfusional iron overload	
DIN	02436523	100 mg/mL oral solution
DIN	02436558	100 mg tablet
PLAN G BENEFIT?	No	
PLAN P BENEFIT?	No	

### Discontinued Benefits

As of **Dec. 10, 2016**, PharmaCare will no longer cover desiccated thyroid (Thyroid) tablets. The manufacturer increased the price of Thyroid significantly on Nov. 1, 2016. PharmaCare reviewed the price increase the manufacturer submitted and determined that other, less expensive therapeutic alternatives exist. Patients with current PharmaCare coverage for Thyroid will continue to receive coverage indefinitely.

PharmaCare will no longer cover the following products for patients being prescribed the product for the first time:

DIN	DRUG NAME
00023949	desiccated thyroid (Thyroid) 30 mg tablet
00023957	desiccated thyroid (Thyroid) 60 mg tablet
00023966	desiccated thyroid (Thyroid) 125 mg tablet