



# BC PharmaCare Newsletter

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## BC SMOKING CESSATION PROGRAM PRODUCT CHANGES JAN. 1, 2017



As announced in [PharmaCare Newsletter 16-008](#), the manufacturer of the Nicoderm® and Nicorette® brands is introducing a new product format—Nicoderm Rx and Nicorette Rx. As this new format is rolled out, the PharmaCare BC Smoking Cessation Program will begin moving to coverage of the “Rx” line of products, as pictured above and indicated in the tables below.

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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.

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The first change will occur **Jan. 1, 2017**, when PharmaCare will cover the Nicoderm Rx products. The second change will happen **Apr. 1, 2017**, with the introduction of the Nicorette Rx format and the shift to the mint flavor only.

>> For full details on the products covered, refer to [list of Eligible BC Smoking Cessation Program Products](#).

>> For information on the requirements for claiming new products, see [PharmaCare Newsletter 16-008](#).

## HOLIDAY HOURS FOR HELP DESK

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The PharmaNet Help Desk will be closed from:

- 10:15 p.m. Dec. 24, 2016, until
- 10:15 p.m. Dec. 25, 2016.

If you experience connection problems during this time, please call **(250) 361-5790**.

The Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system will be available via the Help Desk phone numbers.

## YEAR-END CHANGE WINDOW

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To allow for annual routine maintenance activities:

- Fair PharmaCare Registration (phone and online) will be unavailable starting at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 31, 2016.
- We anticipate that **online registration** will resume before 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017.
- Full **phone registration** services via Health Insurance BC will resume at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017.

## 2017 PROVIDER PAYMENT SCHEDULE

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The weekly and monthly [provider payment schedules](#) are now available on the [pharmacist information page](#) on the PharmaCare website. The schedules may be downloaded and printed for your convenience.

## BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS – YEAR END REMINDER

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As usual, on Jan. 1, patients will be assigned their annual limit of blood glucose test strips. Please ensure you use the correct “Within Annual Limit” PIN, as listed on the [PharmaCare website](#), for claims until such time as patients exceed their annual limit.

**Please note:** The list of blood glucose test strips eligible for PharmaCare coverage changes on a regular basis. Please consult the [online list of eligible test strips](#) on the PharmaCare website before submitting claims.

Note that all strips purchased by a patient, regardless of the payer, count toward the patient’s annual BGTS limit.

### BGTS quantity limit Information for patients—Available in multiple languages

Information on the [PharmaCare Quantity Limits for Blood Glucose Test Strips](#) is available on our website in multiple languages. For these and other publications, visit our [Patient Information Sheets](#) page.

## FAIR PHARMACARE – ANNUAL UPDATE

### Fair PharmaCare deductibles for 2017

On **Jan. 1, 2017**, PharmaNet will be updated to reflect annual deductibles and family maximums for 2017 for all individuals and families registered in the plan. Deductible accumulations will be reset to zero. Fair PharmaCare coverage levels for 2017 are based on family net income for 2015. Universal Child Care Benefits and income from Registered Disability Savings Plans are **not** included when determining assistance levels.

### Deductible information for patients for 2017

Fair PharmaCare registrants can access their deductible and family maximum information in the following ways:

Through the [PharmaCare website](#), individuals can:

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

Individuals 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.

### Retroactive reimbursements

PharmaCare reimburses expenses above a family's Fair PharmaCare deductible only if the expenses were incurred after the family registered for the plan—but all eligible 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 items bought 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 2017; it is calculated automatically after year-end. In the spring of 2017, a reimbursement cheque will be mailed to each qualifying individual or family.

## BENEFITS

### Blood Glucose Test Strips

The following blood glucose test strips now eligible for coverage.

PRODUCT	PIN for patients below the annual quantity limit	PIN for patients above the annual quantity limit	EFFECTIVE DATE
On Call Vivid Self-Monitoring Blood Glucose Test Strips	44123062	48123062	Nov. 29, 2016
Allevia Plus Blood Glucose Test Strips	44123063	48123063	Dec. 6, 2016

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

## High-Cost Drugs

The following products will be added to the list of designated high-cost drugs. For details on the High-Cost Drug policy, see [Section 5.8](#) of the PharmaCare Policy Manual. The [complete list of high-cost drugs](#) is available online.

DIN	DRUG NAME	EFFECTIVE DATE
02436558	deferiprone (Ferriprox®) 1000 mg tablet	Jan. 18, 2017
02436523	deferiprone (Ferriprox®) 100 mg/ml oral solution	Jan. 18, 2017

## Non-Benefits

The following product has been reviewed and will not be added as a benefit under PharmaCare.

DIN	DRUG NAME	INDICATION
02260565	omalizumab (Xolair®) 150 mg vial	Chronic idiopathic urticaria