



BC PharmaCare Newsletter

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HELP DESK HOLIDAY HOURS

The PharmaNet Help Desk will be closed from 10:15 p.m. on December 24, until 10:15 p.m. on December 25, 2017.

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

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

YEAR-END CHANGE WINDOW

To allow for annual routine maintenance activities,

- Fair PharmaCare registration online and by phone will be unavailable starting at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, December 31, 2017.
- Online registration service will resume by 8:00 a.m. on Monday, January 1, 2018.
- Phone registration services will resume at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

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.

2018 PROVIDER PAYMENT SCHEDULE

The weekly and monthly provider payment schedules are available on the [pharmacist information page](#) of the PharmaCare website.

BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS—YEAR END REMINDER

On January 1, 2018, 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 patients exceed their annual limit.

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

All strips purchased by a patient, regardless of the payer, count toward the patient’s annual limit.

BGTS information for patients

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 2018

On January 1, 2018, PharmaNet will be updated to reflect 2018 annual deductibles and family maximums for all registered individuals and families. Deductible accumulations will be reset to zero.

Fair PharmaCare coverage levels for 2018 are based on family net income for 2016. Universal Child Care Benefits and income from Registered Disability Savings Plans are not included when determining assistance levels.

Deductible information for patients for 2018

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.
- Request that a Confirmation of Fair PharmaCare Coverage be mailed to them.

Individuals can also contact Health Insurance BC (Monday to Friday 8 a.m.–8 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m.–4 p.m.):

- From the Lower Mainland, call 604-683-7151.
- From the rest of B.C., call toll-free 1-800-663-7100.

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.

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However, if a family qualified for increased assistance during the year, their new, lower deductible and family maximum are applied to any eligible items bought after January 1 of the current year or the date of the family's Fair PharmaCare registration¹, whichever is later.

Retroactive reimbursement is calculated automatically after year-end. In the spring of 2018, a reimbursement cheque will be mailed to each qualifying individual or family.

BENEFITS

Discontinued Drugs for Hepatitis C

Treatment for Hepatitis C has advanced considerably in recent years. In order to provide the best possible coverage for Hepatitis C, PharmaCare is delisting now obsolete treatments.

The following drugs will no longer be PharmaCare benefits as of the date indicated in the table below.

DIN	DRUG NAME	STRENGTH/FORM	EFFECTIVE DELISTING DATE
02253410	ribavirin/peginterferon (Pegasys RBV®)	200 mg – 180 mcg	January 13, 2018
02253429	ribavirin/peginterferon (Pegasys RBV®)	200 mg – 180 mcg	January 13, 2018
02246026	ribavirin/peginterferon (Pegetron®)	200 mg – 50 mcg	January 13, 2018
02254581	ribavirin/peginterferon (Pegetron®)	200 mg – 80 mcg	January 13, 2018
02254603	ribavirin/peginterferon (Pegetron®)	200 mg – 100 mcg	January 13, 2018
02254638	ribavirin/peginterferon (Pegetron®)	200 mg – 120 mcg	January 13, 2018
02254646	ribavirin/peginterferon (Pegetron®)	200 mg – 150 mcg	January 13, 2018
02246030	ribavirin/peginterferon (Pegetron®)	200 mg – 150 mcg	January 13, 2018
02416441	simeprevir (Galexos®)	150 mg tablet	January 13, 2018
02452294	asunaprevir (Sunvepra™)	100 mg capsule	January 13, 2018

Regular Benefits

The following new product is now an eligible PharmaCare benefit for Fair PharmaCare and Plans B, C, F, W, and, if indicated below, Plan G and/or Plan P.

DIN	DRUG NAME	PLAN G	PLAN P
2468409	amitriptyline hydrochloride (PMS-Amitriptyline) 100 mg tablet	Yes	No

Publicly Funded Vaccines

The following new product has been added to the list of publicly funded vaccines:

PIN	VACCINE
66128170	Hiberix®

For a full list of publicly funded vaccines available to pharmacists, and other useful information for pharmacists, please see our [Vaccine Resources for Pharmacists](#).

¹ 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.