



# BC PharmaCare Newsletter

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## QuickLinks

AUVI-Q Now Available as a Substitution for EpiPen .....	1
Your Voice: Patient Input Needed for Drug Decisions .....	1

## AUVI-Q NOW AVAILABLE AS A SUBSTITUTION FOR EPIPEN

In response to the ongoing EpiPen® shortage, [Health Canada](#) has allowed the import of AUVI-Q® epinephrine auto-injectors from the United States. Supply is expected to become available in B.C. the week of September 4, 2018.

PharmaCare now covers AUVI-Q when EpiPen is not available due to short supply. This coverage is identical to EpiPen coverage, and will remain in effect until further notice.

PIN	PRODUCT	EFFECTIVE DATE
02480379	AUVI-Q 0.3 mg/0.3mL epinephrine injection in a pre-filled auto-injector	September 4, 2018
02480360	AUVI-Q 0.15 mg/0.15mL epinephrine injection in a pre-filled auto-injector	September 4, 2018

The dispensing limits for EpiPens remain in effect and also apply to AUVI-Q products. As AUVI-Q is packaged with two auto-injectors per box, only one box can be dispensed at a time. When entering the claim in PharmaNet, the correct quantity is the number of auto-injectors dispensed.

PharmaCare continues to cover pre-filled epinephrine syringes and epinephrine ampoules as alternatives to EpiPen; however, due to its ease of use, AUVI-Q should be substituted for EpiPen when appropriate. Given the higher cost of AUVI-Q products, they should only be dispensed when EpiPen is not available.

Like EpiPen, AUVI-Q is a Schedule II drug that can be dispensed without a prescription, at the pharmacist's discretion.

[More information about the temporary supply of AUVI-Q](#) is available from Food Allergy Canada.

## YOUR VOICE: PATIENT INPUT NEEDED FOR DRUG DECISIONS

The feedback and experiences of patients, caregivers, and patient groups is integral to [B.C.'s drug review process](#).

The Ministry depends on pharmacies and practitioners to help connect patients and their caregivers with opportunities to provide input. If you have a patient who is currently taking one of the drugs under review or who has the condition the new drug treats, please encourage them to visit [www.gov.bc.ca/BCyourvoice](http://www.gov.bc.ca/BCyourvoice).

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.

[www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarepharmacists](http://www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarepharmacists) | [www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacareprescribers](http://www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacareprescribers) | [www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacaredeviceproviders](http://www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacaredeviceproviders)



Ministry of Health

BC PharmaCare is currently seeking input on the following drugs:

<b>DRUG NAME</b>	tapentadol hydrochloride (Nucynta <sup>®</sup> Extended Release)
<b>INDICATION</b>	Severe pain
<b>INPUT WINDOW</b>	August 22–September 19, 2018

<b>DRUG NAME</b>	ertugliflozin (Steglatro™)
<b>INDICATION</b>	Type 2 diabetes mellitus
<b>INPUT WINDOW</b>	August 22–September 19, 2018

<b>DRUG NAME</b>	ertugliflozin-metformin (Segluromet™)
<b>INDICATION</b>	Type 2 diabetes mellitus
<b>INPUT WINDOW</b>	August 22–September 19, 2018