

BC PHARMACARE NEWSLETTER

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Nurses prescribing Suboxone®

Effective October 26, 2020, the BC College of Nurses and Midwives have standards, limits and conditions in place for registered nurses (RNs) and registered psychiatric nurses (RPNs) to prescribe buprenorphine/naloxone. Approved provincial training and education to meet these new standards begins December 2020.

This expanded scope of practice comes in response to the need for improved access to opioid agonist treatment (OAT) therapy amid two concurrent public health emergencies (opioid crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic). Until now, nurse practitioners were the only nurses who could write prescriptions in B.C. Under the PHO order and with new guidance development, RNs and RPNs may also have prescribing authority for other medications beyond buprenorphine/naloxone in the new year.

Pharmacists may see buprenorphine/naloxone prescriptions by RNs/RPNs as early as January 2021. When entering these prescriptions into PharmaNet, pharmacists should enter the prescriber's new licence number and use the new practitioner reference ID in order for the claim to adjudicate correctly:

Prescriber	Pract Ref ID
Registered Nurse	R9
Registered Psychiatric Nurse	Y9

The PharmaCare Newsletter is published by the Pharmaceutical Services Division to provide information to British Columbia's health care providers.

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 | www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacareprescribers | www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacaredeviceproviders



All new PharmaNet users to enrol in PRIME as of December 1, 2020

As of December 1, 2020, all eligible healthcare practitioners needing new access to PharmaNet to deliver direct patient care must enrol in PRIME. This includes individual PharmaNet users in community pharmacies, health authorities and private community health practices. A new user may be someone requiring first-time PharmaNet access, or who may have had access in the past but not on November 30, 2020.

PRIME for practitioners is a simple online application that can be filled out in minutes, once you have [set up your mobile BC Services Card](#). Practitioners apply to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) for approval to access PharmaNet. The Ministry is the sole authority that can grant approval to access PharmaNet.

Users provide contact information, college ID information (if applicable), and job titles (if accessing PharmaNet on behalf of others). They agree to terms of access and declare any past issues relating to confidential information. The terms of access signed in PRIME replace previous paper PharmaNet access agreements (ComPAP, MPAP) and confidentiality undertakings (HAP, EDAP, BPMH).

The Ministry can approve many PRIME enrolments in real time. When a user is approved, PRIME contacts their PharmaNet administrator (e.g., pharmacy manager, medical office assistant, vendor, human resources contact), who sets up their PharmaNet access on the PharmaNet software used in their workplace. PRIME eliminates much of the administrative paperwork and recordkeeping that has traditionally fallen to healthcare settings.

As a centralized system, PRIME augments the security of patient and provider PharmaNet data and allows for stringent monitoring and auditing of PharmaNet access. Approved users are assigned a global ID number that will be attached to all their PharmaNet transactions across care settings.

PRIME was rolled out to practitioners in private community health practices [earlier this year](#). Practitioners in private community health practices must enrol in PRIME to change PharmaNet access sites, request remote access, or update information, as well as for new access.

By April 2022, all existing PharmaNet users will need to have enrolled in PRIME. The Ministry will publicize onboarding dates, though you may enrol at any time after December 1.

Pharmacies, hospitals and other health authority sites, and private community health practices will eventually register in PRIME as PharmaNet access sites.

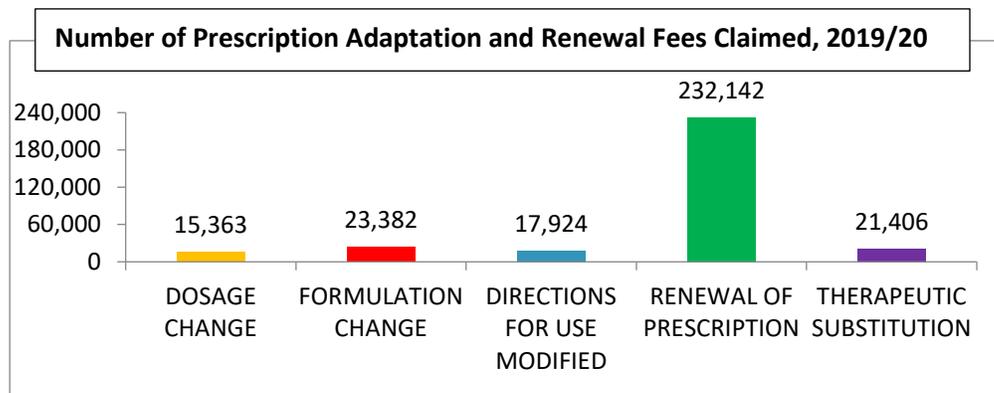
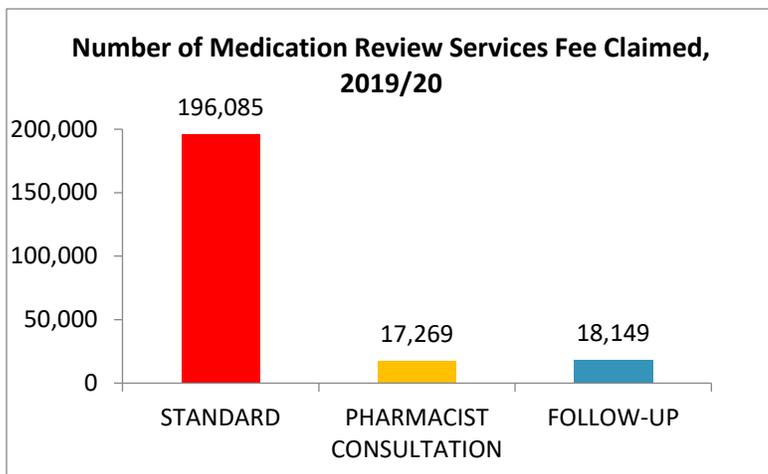
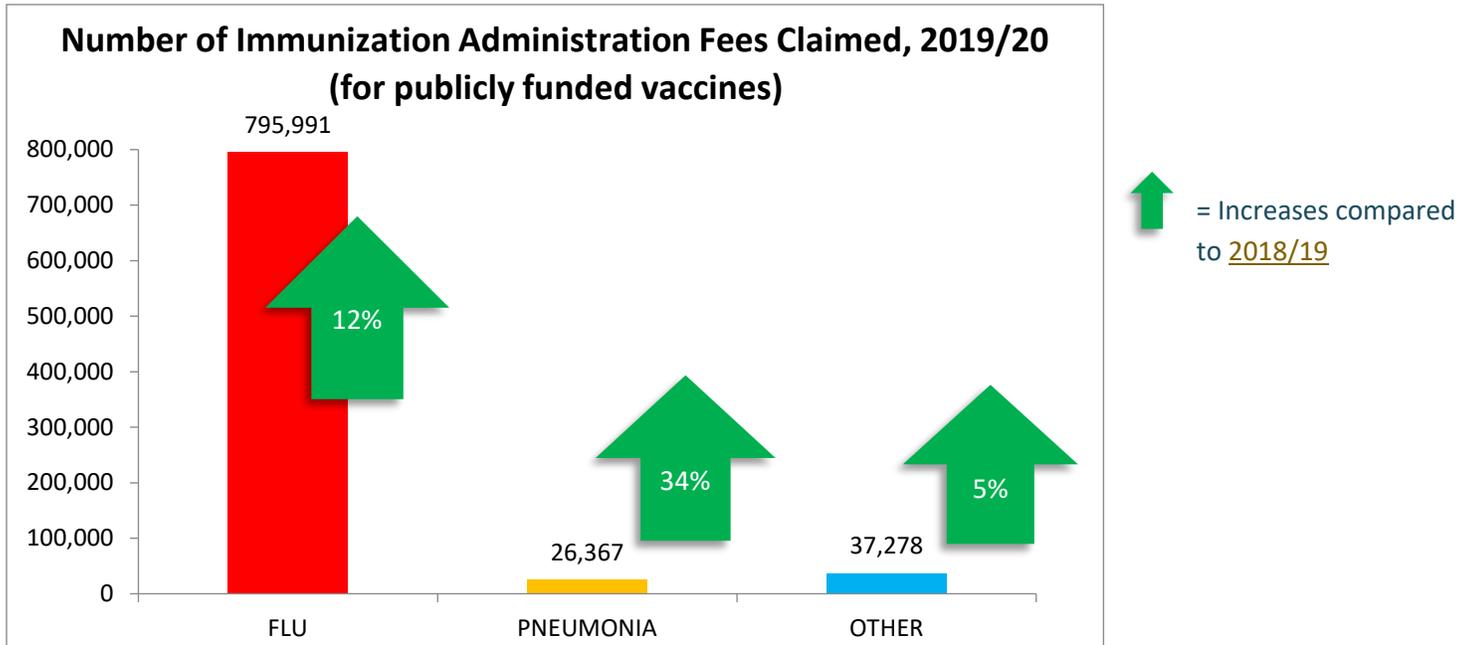
Who enrolls in PRIME as of December 1?

- All new PharmaNet users (including on-behalf-of users) in all healthcare settings. These may be first-time PharmaNet users or practitioners who have had access to PharmaNet in the past, but did not have access on November 30, 2020.
- Physicians and nurse practitioners in private community health practices who want to access PharmaNet outside the practice location.
- Any practitioner in a private community health practices who needs to update information about their PharmaNet access.

For more information, visit the [PRIME](#) web page or contact PRIME@gov.bc.ca

Clinical Services Fees 2019/2020

Pharmacists are hard at work every day in B.C.—and not just in response to crises. Clinical services fees charged by B.C. pharmacists in fiscal year 2019 to 2020 demonstrate the volume of services provided and claimed across the province.



PharmaCare Newsletter now on a regular schedule

Effective immediately, the PharmaCare Newsletter will be published on the first Tuesday of each month.

Traditionally, the newsletter was published sporadically through the year, usually tied to drug listing dates. In consideration of reader experience, PharmaCare has been improving how the newsletter is presented and delivered. In the past year, we [changed to a new subscription service](#) and began providing the [newsletter in HTML](#).

A regular publishing schedule means readers will know when to expect a new edition. In the case of urgent news, a special edition may be published on the third Tuesday of a month. For all editions, you will continue to receive an email notification as soon as they are published.

Benefits

The following product is now listed as a regular benefit under Fair PharmaCare and Plans B, C, F and W:

COVERAGE EFFECTIVE	October 30, 2020		
DRUG NAME	latanoprostene bunod (Vyzulta®)		
INDICATION	open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension		
DIN	02484218	STRENGTH AND FORM	0.024% w/v ophthalmic solution
PLAN G BENEFIT	No	PLAN P BENEFIT	No

Non-benefits

Health Canada has withdrawn the following product across Canada due to liver-related health implications. Effective immediately, the product is **delisted** as a PharmaCare limited coverage benefit:

PRODUCT	DIN	STRENGTH/FORM
ulipristal acetate (Fibristal®)	02408163	5 mg/tablet

Your Voice: Patient input needed for drug decisions

The knowledge and experience of patients, caregivers and patient groups are 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 <http://www.gov.bc.ca/BCyourvoice>.

Currently input is needed for the following:

DRUG	onasemnogene abeparvovec (Zolgensma®)
INDICATION	Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) in pediatric patients < 2 years
INPUT WINDOW	October 21 to November 18, 2020