



# BC PharmaCare Newsletter

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## INTRODUCTION OF BILL 35—THE PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES ACT



On Tuesday, April 24, 2012, the provincial government introduced Bill 35, the Pharmaceutical Services Act, which provides supporting legislation for the \$1-billion PharmaCare program.

For more information, please see the Ministry of Health’s press release at [www.gov.bc.ca/health](http://www.gov.bc.ca/health).

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.

## NOW AVAILABLE—HPV VACCINE GUIDE FOR PHARMACISTS

### HPV Vaccine (Cervarix™) One-Time Program for Young Women Born 1991, 1992, or 1993

Starting in mid-April 2012, BC launched a time-limited program of publicly funded HPV vaccination (Cervarix™) for young women who were born in 1991, 1992, or 1993.

Pharmacists authorized to administer immunizations can access this vaccine and administer it to eligible BC residents.

Details about the program, including patient eligibility, how to obtain vaccine, and billing procedures, are now available in a Resource Guide for Pharmacists at [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/pdf/HPVGuide.pdf](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/pdf/HPVGuide.pdf).

## VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH: PERTUSSIS IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION FOR PHARMACISTS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Vancouver Coastal Health recently expanded the eligibility criteria for people to receive free pertussis-containing vaccine (TDaP - Adacel®). Pharmacists authorized to administer immunizations who work in pharmacies located in the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority are invited to order and administer vaccine to eligible BC residents. This invitation is similar to the one extended to pharmacists in the Fraser Health Authority last month ([www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/pdf/fh-let-pcist.pdf](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/pdf/fh-let-pcist.pdf)).

Details about the program, including patient eligibility, how to obtain vaccine, and billing procedures, were e-mailed to authorized pharmacists on March 23, 2012, and are now available on the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority website at [www.vch.ca/your\\_health/health-topics/communicable\\_diseases/for\\_health\\_professionals/for-pharmacists](http://www.vch.ca/your_health/health-topics/communicable_diseases/for_health_professionals/for-pharmacists).



## FREQUENCY OF DISPENSING

As outlined in the [PharmaCare Policy Manual](#), fee limits are per pharmacy. If a patient fills prescriptions at more than one pharmacy on the same day, each pharmacy can claim the maximum number of fees allowed under the policy.

However, **dividing patient claims between two or more pharmacies in order to circumvent the maximum number of fees covered under the Frequency of Dispensing Policy is not permitted** and is subject to audit by the Ministry of Health.

For more information, please see [Section 8.3](#) of the PharmaCare Policy Manual.



## BC PALLIATIVE CARE BENEFITS PROGRAM—UPDATED INFORMATION

BC Palliative Care Benefits Program updates are now available on the PharmaCare website at

[www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/outgoing/palliative.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/outgoing/palliative.html).

Updates include the most recent BC Palliative Care Benefits Program:

- application form (HLTH 349)
- Physician Guide
- patient information sheet
- formulary

## ELIGIBILITY CHANGE FOR MEDICATION REVIEW SERVICES

Funding to support expanded patient access to medication review services is in place for this year.

Effective **May 1, 2012**, a patient with five medications (i.e., any prescription medication, non-prescription drug product, compounded drug product, and/or injection that has a DIN or PIN) that have been entered into PharmaNet within the last six months is eligible. Previously, patients were required to have seven such medications.

The **Medication Review Services—Policies, Guidelines and Procedures for Pharmacists** manual and adjudication procedures will be updated soon to reflect this change.

## ONLINE PUBLICATIONS—FINAL REMINDER

Thank you to all who took the time to subscribe to our online PharmaCare and PharmaNet publications. If we haven't received a form from you by **May 4, 2012**, we will assume that you no longer require a printed copy.

**If you would like to read our publications online**, sign up for our Subscription Service by visiting [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/listserv/index.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/listserv/index.html) and entering your e-mail address. A notification will be sent to you whenever a new publication is available.

**If you are not a subscriber and require a printed copy**, details can be found in the [February 8, 2012](#), edition of the PharmaCare Newsletter. Visit [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/newsletter/index.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/newsletter/index.html) for details.

## SPECIAL SERVICES FEES

The number of Special Services fees that PharmaCare paid each month over the past year:

Mar 2012.....1439	Nov 2011 .... 2,002	Jul 2011.....1,838
Feb 2012.....1,502	Oct 2011 .... 1,891	Jun 2011.....1,921
Jan 2012.....1,409	Sep 2011..... 1,949	May 2011....1,959
Dec 2011.....2,112	Aug 2011 .... 1,804	Apr 2011 .....1,654

## BENEFITS

### Special Authority Coverage of Hydromorphone Prolonged Release (Jurnista®)

Effective March 30, 2012, hydromorphone prolonged release (Jurnista®) became available as a Limited Coverage benefit through PharmaCare's Special Authority (SA) program for pain management in a specified chronic pain (including cancer pain) diagnosis. Detailed criteria are available on the PharmaCare website at [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/hydromorphone.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/hydromorphone.html).

Coverage of hydromorphone prolonged release is subject to the usual rules of a patient's BC PharmaCare plan, including any deductible requirement. Retroactive coverage cannot be provided for prescriptions filled before SA approval is in place.

### Regular Benefits

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

DIN	DRUG NAME	PLAN G	PLAN P
80025653	Creon® 6 Minimicrospheres® oral pancreatic enzymes capsule	No	Yes

The following blood glucose monitoring strips are now eligible PharmaCare benefits.

DIN	DRUG NAME	PLAN G	PLAN P
44123050	Rapid Response™ Blood Glucose Testing Strip	No	No

### Limited Coverage Drug Program Benefits

The following products are eligible benefits under the Limited Coverage Program—by Special Authority only—for Fair PharmaCare and Plans B, C, and F. For the Special Authority criteria, please visit the [Special Authority Information](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare) page on the PharmaCare website at [www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare).

DIN	DRUG NAME	PLAN G	PLAN P
02337266	hydromorphone (Jurnista®) 4 mg prolonged release tablet	No	Yes
02337274	hydromorphone (Jurnista®) 8 mg prolonged release tablet	No	Yes
02337282	hydromorphone (Jurnista®) 16 mg prolonged release tablet	No	Yes
02337290	hydromorphone (Jurnista®) 32 mg prolonged release tablet	No	Yes

### Non-Benefits

The following products have been reviewed and will not be added as benefits under PharmaCare.

DIN	DRUG NAME
02351064	liraglutide (Victoza®) 6 mg/ml solution for injection in a pre-filled, multi-dose syringe pen
N/A	NovoFine® Autocover® safety needles
02359456	roflumilast (Daxas™) 500 mg tablet