BC PHARMACARE NEWSLETTER

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YPSOPUMP STARTER KIT NOW A PHARMACARE BENEFIT

Effective July 28, 2020, Ypsomed AG's YpsoPump starter kit was added as a limited coverage benefit in the Tier 1 insulin pump category. Physicians must complete a Special Authority Request form (HLTH 5375) (PDF, 473 KB) for initial or subsequent (renewal) coverage of insulin pumps.

The kit includes:

- YpsoPump
- Inset® soft infusion sets, or Orbit® steel, or soft infusion sets (of any length)
- reservoirs
- inserter
- belt clip
- reservoir storage box, and
- screen protector

The starter kit is eligible for reimbursement up to a maximum of $800. For patients approved for Special Authority and covered under the Fair PharmaCare plan, the cost will be applied to their deductible and/or family maximum. Patients should be sure to register for Fair PharmaCare before purchasing the pump to get the best coverage. PharmaCare offers 100% coverage for patients under Plans C, F or W.

PINs for starter kits, infusion sets and reservoirs can all be found at Diabetes Product Identification Numbers (PINs). Frequently asked questions are on the Insulin Pumps and Insulin Pump Supplies web page.

The reservoirs and the infusion sets (outside the starter set) are listed as regular benefits and don't require Special Authority.

If they have questions, encourage your patients to speak to their endocrinologist/diabetes specialist physician or to contact Health Insurance BC.

NEW INSTRUCTIONS FOR PHARMANET PHN SEARCHES

PharmaCare has revised the instructions for locating patient Personal Health Numbers (PHN) in PharmaNet. Changes to the government registry applications managing PHN information have changed the way results are presented. This has meant more unsuccessful searches for PHNs, which has led to more duplicate PHNs.

Please make every reasonable effort to find a patient's PHN in PharmaNet before issuing a new one.

- If a full name search (e.g., Michelle Bellini) offers no correct matches, search again using the first initial (e.g., M. Bellini). The new software does not automatically search for first initials.
- Confirm the patient's exact birth year. A friend or relative picking up a prescription, especially, may estimate the patient's birth year. While the previous system returned matches within five years (±), the current system searches only for the specific year entered.
- If the patient is visiting B.C. or is new to the province and does not have a BC Services Card, this does not automatically mean that they do not have a PHN. Ask if they have lived in B.C. at any time since 1995, or if they've had a prescription filled in B.C. since 1995. If they answer Yes to either question, they likely have a PHN. Multiple attempts should be made to search for it, including calling the PharmaNet Help Desk.

The updated search instructions are detailed in *PharmaCare Policy Section 3.3: Patients—Personal Health Numbers, Searching for a PHN*.

Print and post: The Quick Guide to Searching for PHNs on PharmaNet (PDF, 138 KB).

THE SPECIAL AUTHORITY PROCESS IS GOING DIGITAL

The Special Authority process is going digital and we need your input. Please take a moment to complete this survey: https://hello843587.typeform.com/to/F1WS2RI6

More information on the Special Authority Transformation will be provided in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, any questions can be sent to SATransformation@gov.bc.ca

PHARMACARE AND P&O POLICY MANUALS NOW IN HTML

As of August 13, 2020, the PharmaCare Policy Manual and the Prosthetic and Orthotic (P&O) Policy Manual are available in HTML. Previously, these manuals were provided as PDF files, which were slower to download and took up more computer storage. A transition to HTML means the manuals are more accessible to users with disabilities, web pages download more quickly, and content is easier to search and read, especially on mobile devices.

The P&O Manual is on one single web page. The PharmaCare Policy Manual is published across several web pages, but will soon be available, as well, in its entirety on a single web page, to make research easier.

Please see the PharmaCare Policy Manual at www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarepolicy and the P&O Policy Manual at www.gov.bc.ca/popolicy.

NEW PHARMACARE LINE OPTIONS

Effective August 5, 2020, the PharmaCare Information Line—also known as the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system—added two new options to its pharmacy self-service menu:

1. **Confirm plan registration** – Pharmacists enter a PHN and select a specific plan or all plans. The IVR responds with a list of the plans (and expiration dates) that a patient is registered in. Previously, such inquiries were made to the PharmaNet Help Desk.

2. **Site of dispense** – Pharmacists enter a PHN to retrieve the pharmacy name and number where a medication was dispensed on a selected date. (If no date is entered, the system defaults to the date of inquiry.)

NON-BENEFITS

The following product has been de-listed due to product discontinuation:

DATE EFFECTIVE	July 29, 2020
DRUG NAME	daclatasvir (Daklinza™)
INDICATION	hepatitis C