

BC PHARMACARE NEWSLETTER

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In this edition

COVID-19 recordkeeping requirements – Ministerial Order reminder	2
Extension of temporary authorizations for controlled drugs and substances	2
OAT training: deadline reminder	2
Biosimilars Initiative mid-switch survey for prescribers	3
Reminders	3
Adalimumab and etanercept biosimilar switch.....	3
Reporting pharmacy changes.....	4
Notification requirements for changes to enrolment.....	4
Limited coverage benefits	5
Non-benefits	5
Your Voice: Patient input needed for drug decisions	5
PharmaCare Scripts	6
Pharmacy purchase and enrolling as a provider	6

The PharmaCare Newsletter team works from the territory of the Lekwungen peoples, including the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. Our gratitude extends to them, and all the Indigenous peoples on whose territories and lands we build relationships.

The PharmaCare Newsletter is published by the Pharmaceutical, Laboratory & Blood 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



Did you know?

In 2019-2020, PharmaCare paid out an average of \$1,534.41 for each PharmaCare beneficiary. Find more stats like this in [2019-2020 PharmaCare Trends!](#)



COVID-19 recordkeeping requirements – Ministerial Order reminder

As a health and safety precaution during the COVID-19 pandemic, Ministerial Order [M212](#) temporarily waives [subsections 13\(2\)\(a\)\(vii\) and \(b\)\(v\) of the Provider Regulation \(“Additional records to be kept by pharmacy providers”\)](#).

This means:

- Original opioid agonist treatment (OAT) prescriptions do not need to be signed by the beneficiary, as long as the order is in effect; and
- Patients do not need to sign an accountability log.

This Ministerial Order ends on the date the Provincial Health Officer declares the COVID-19 public health emergency has passed (unless it is rescinded earlier). With Step 4 of [BC’s Restart Plan](#) launching as early as September 7, 2021, which may include ending the public health emergency, please be aware that signature requirements in place before the Ministerial Order would be reinstated effective that day.

Please note that the College of Pharmacists of BC’s signature requirements are still in effect. See the [College’s FAQ](#) for more information.

At this time, all other COVID-19-related changes will continue until further notice. Please continue to monitor the PharmaCare Newsletter and College communications.

Extension of temporary authorizations for controlled drugs and substances

To support continuity of care to patients during the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 19, 2020, Health Canada issued a national class exemption under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA) and its regulations, for prescriptions of controlled substances.

To maintain Canadians’ access to controlled substances for medical treatments, the expiration date of this temporary exemption has been extended from September 30, 2021 to September 30, 2026.

[Please see College article for further information.](#)

OAT training: deadline reminder

The deadline to complete the BC Pharmacy Association (BCPhA) Opioid Agonist Treatment Compliance and Management Program for Pharmacy (OAT-CAMPP) is September 30, 2021. Effective October 1, 2021, PharmaCare will require every pharmacist at a pharmacy that provides opioid agonist treatment (OAT) to have completed the OAT-CAMPP training. OAT-CAMPP training will also be required for pharmacies to enrol in the OAT provider sub-class and to maintain enrolment.

In addition, as of September 30, 2021, the College’s PPP-66 will require all pharmacy managers, staff pharmacists, relief pharmacists and pharmacy technicians employed in a community pharmacy that provides pharmacy services related to opioid agonist treatment to complete the OAT-CAMPP training.

For more information and to register for the training, see:

- [College of Pharmacists PPP-66 requirements and OAT resources](#)
- BCPHA's [OAT-CAMPP webpages](#)

Biosimilars Initiative: mid-switch survey for prescribers

A [Biosimilars Initiative Prescriber Survey](#) is now live. If you're a prescriber involved in the [current \(April to October 2021\) switch period](#), please take the survey. Your input will help us improve our process and communications. The survey closes on August 31.

For any other questions or comments concerning the switch, please contact our biosimilars team at Biosimilars.Initiative@gov.bc.ca

Reminders

Adalimumab and etanercept biosimilar switch

This is a reminder to pharmacists that there is an ongoing biosimilar switch period for adalimumab, and etanercept for plaque psoriasis (see table below for covered biosimilars and corresponding conditions). As announced in [PharmaCare Newsletter 21-004](#), the switch period runs until October 6, 2021.

Switch period: April 7, 2021 to October 6, 2021		
Originator	PharmaCare-covered biosimilar	Conditions include
adalimumab (Humira®)	Amgevita® Hadlima®* Hulio® Hyrimoz®* Idacio®	ankylosing spondylitis Crohn's disease hidradenitis suppurativa (for adults) plaque psoriasis (for adults) polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis psoriatic arthritis rheumatoid arthritis ulcerative colitis
etanercept (Enbrel®)	Brenzys® Erelzi®	plaque psoriasis (for adults)

*Hadlima and Hyrimoz aren't yet approved to treat pediatric Crohn's disease

Pharmacists play an important role in ensuring patients receive unbiased and accurate information regarding biosimilars. There is a \$15 per patient support fee (**PIN 66127318**) offered to pharmacies which help identify, notify, and educate patients who might be affected by the current biosimilar switch. PharmaCare appreciates the valuable role of pharmacists and the work they've been doing to support this initiative.

Note: only one patient support fee can be claimed per PHN, even if the patient uses more than one originator subject to switching. You can claim a support fee for a PHN that was involved in a previous switch period if you identify them to be impacted by the current switch. Support fees must be submitted within the switch period window.

To prepare yourself to answer questions from patients, please visit [Biosimilars Initiative for Pharmacies](#).

Reporting pharmacy changes

Pharmacies are responsible for informing PharmaCare when information about the pharmacy changes or if certain actions or events occur. See [notification requirements](#) below.

In accordance with the [Provider Regulation](#), a pharmacy must notify PharmaCare about changes within the time requirements detailed below. If this information is not received, PharmaCare payments to the pharmacy may be delayed or suspended.

All changes can be reported using the [Provider Change Form \(HLTH 5433\)](#).

Notification requirements for changes to enrolment

Change	Notification requirement
Change in provider contact information	Minimum 7 days before change
Change of operating/business or corporate name	Minimum 7 days before change
Change of owner information	Minimum 7 days before change
Change of manager	Minimum 7 days before change
Change of location	Minimum 7 days before change
Change to power of attorney	Minimum 7 days before change
Cancellation of provider sub-class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opioid agonist treatment: 30 days before services will end • Plan B: no later than the last day of the month before the final full month in which service will be provided • Device provider: as soon as is reasonably practicable
Request to add a sub-class	Recommended 21 days before requested effective date
Notice of sale or closure	Minimum 30 days before change
Notice of certain actions or events*	Immediately

*See [current list of actions/events](#).

For more information about reporting PharmaCare changes, please refer to the PharmaCare Policy Manual, [Section 2.1 – PharmaCare Provider Enrolment](#).

See our related [PharmaCare Script](#) below!

Limited coverage benefits

Drug name	vortioxetine (Trintellix®)		
Date effective	July 6, 2021		
Indication	Major depressive disorder		
DIN	02432919	Strength and form	5 mg tablet
	02432927		10 mg tablet
	02432943		20 mg tablet
Covered under Plans	C, I, W, G		

Non-benefits

The following product has been reviewed and won't be listed as a PharmaCare benefit under the DINs below:

NON-BENEFIT DECISION DATE: July 6, 2021		
PRODUCT	STRENGTH AND FORM	DIN
belimumab (Benlysta®)	200 mg/mL pre-filled subcutaneous injection	024740470
	200 mg/mL autoinjector	02470489

Your Voice: Patient input needed for drug decisions

The knowledge and experience 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 give input. If you have a patient 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	triheptanoin (Dojolvi®)
INDICATION	Long-chain fatty acid oxidation disorders (LC-FAOD) in adult and pediatric patients
INPUT WINDOW	July 21 to August 18, 2021

DRUG	inclisiran (TBC)
INDICATION	Primary hypercholesterolemia in adults
INPUT WINDOW	July 21 to August 18, 2021

PharmaCare Scripts

Did you resolve an interesting pharmacy case, or do you have a question about applying a specific PharmaCare policy? Share your story or inquiry with PharmaCareInfo@gov.bc.ca and you might see a relevant PharmaCare Script posted!



Pharmacy purchase and enrolling as a provider

In four months, Anne is set to take ownership of her first pharmacy and wants to be able to submit claims to PharmaCare once she opens. She has finalized the purchase agreement with the pharmacy's current owner, Ben, but still needs to enrol to become a PharmaCare provider.

Upon calling [PharmaCare's Information Support \(HIBC\)](#), Anne finds out it's not as simple as filling out Part C (Change in Ownership Information) of the [Provider Change form](#)! Part C shouldn't be completed for a site that is being sold, and the legal entity/corporation is changing.

Information Support advises that in the event of a sale, the current owner, Ben, must first complete Part K (Notice of Disposition or Closure) of the [Provider Change form](#). This must be submitted 30 days in advance of the closure.

Meanwhile, as the new owner, Anne must complete and submit the [Provider Enrolment form](#) and supporting documents. Anne asks Ben to fill out his form and to provide his pharmacy's existing site ID, which she needs to fill out her part. At the same time, she applies for a new pharmacy licence from the [College of Pharmacists of BC](#). She's glad there's still enough time left to complete this paperwork. After Ben returns his part, Anne sends her documents to HIBC by fax.

HIBC processes all documents and waits to receive a copy of the pharmacy licence from the College. Once Anne's application and licence are reviewed together, the Ministry of Health enrolls her site in the pharmacy provider class and also approves the sub-class she requested. Anne is excited to open the pharmacy as her own.