



BC PharmaCare Newsletter

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❄️ HOLIDAY HOURS FOR HELP DESK

The PharmaNet Help Desk will be closed from:

- 10:15 p.m. December 24 until
- 10:15 p.m. December 25

If you experience connection problems during this time, please call **(250) 361-5790**.

The Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system will be available via the Help Desk phone numbers.

❄️ YEAR-END CHANGE WINDOW

To allow for annual routine maintenance activities:

- Fair PharmaCare Registration will be unavailable starting at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 31, 2015.
- We anticipate that **online registration** will resume before 8 a.m. on Friday, January 1, 2016.
- Full **phone registration** services via Health Insurance BC will resume at 8 a.m. on Saturday, January 2, 2016.

The use of PharmaNet is not intended as a substitute for professional judgement.
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 for any given patient.
Health care professionals should confirm information obtained from PharmaNet, and ensure no additional relevant information exists, before making patient care decisions.

SMOKING CESSATION PROGRAM UPDATES

Course of treatment limits for nicotine replacement therapy (NRTs) products

In our last newsletter, we provided the list of nicotine replacement therapy products that will be covered under the program as of **January 1, 2016**.

Below is information on what constitutes a course of treatment under the program for each of those products.

For eligible B.C. residents, PharmaCare covers 100% of the cost of a single continuous course of treatment with NRTs lasting up to 12 consecutive weeks (84 days) each calendar year.

Please note that PharmaCare limits coverage of eligible nicotine patches to a maximum 28-day supply per dispense, and the maximum number of dispenses to three, regardless of the specific NRT being dispensed.

Product name	Type	Strength	Pack Size	Maximum units over 12 weeks (84 days)	Maximum boxes over 12 weeks (84 days)	Maximum per dispense
Nicorette®	Gum ¹	2mg	105	945	9 boxes	3 boxes
Nicorette®	Gum ¹	4mg	105	945	9 boxes	3 boxes
Nicorette®	Lozenge	2mg	88	792	9 boxes	3 boxes
Nicorette®	Lozenge	4mg	88	792	9 boxes	3 boxes
Nicoderm®	Patch	7mg	7	84	12 boxes	4 boxes
Nicoderm®	Patch	14mg	7	84	12 boxes	4 boxes
Nicoderm®	Patch	21mg	7	84	12 boxes	4 boxes
Nicorette®	Inhaler	10mg ²	42	504	12 boxes	4 boxes

¹ Gum flavours: Cinnamon, Extreme Chill Menthol, Fresh Fruit, Fresh Mint, Ice Mint.

² 4mg delivered

Important: Please note that only the package sizes above are eligible for coverage under the program. Claims for package sizes not listed above are subject to recovery upon audit.

Waiting for your Supply of Declaration Forms?

Each B.C. pharmacy should receive a printed supply of forms on or before December 29th. The [Declaration and Notification form \(HLTH 5464\)](#) is also available on our website.

BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS (BGTS)—YEAR END REMINDER

As of January 1, patients will be assigned their annual limit of blood glucose test strips. Please ensure you use the correct “Within Annual Limit” PIN, as listed on the [PharmaCare website](#), for claims until such time as patients exceed their annual limit.

Please note: The list of blood glucose test strips eligible for PharmaCare coverage changes on a regular basis. Please consult the [online list of eligible test strips](#) on the PharmaCare website before submitting claims.

Note that all strips purchased by a patient, regardless of the payer, count toward the patient’s annual BGTS limit.

BGTS quantity limit Information for patients—Available in multiple languages

Information on the [PharmaCare Quantity Limits for Blood Glucose Test Strips](#) is available on our website in [English](#), [French](#), [Chinese - Simplified](#), [Chinese - Traditional](#), [Filipino](#), [Persian](#), [Punjabi](#), [Korean](#) and [Vietnamese](#). For these and other publications, visit our [Patient Information Sheets](#) page.

FAIR PHARMACARE—ANNUAL UPDATE

Fair PharmaCare deductibles for 2016

On **January 1, 2016**, PharmaNet will be updated to reflect annual deductibles and family maximums for 2016 for all individuals and families registered in the plan.

Deductible accumulations will be reset to zero. Fair PharmaCare coverage levels for 2016 are based on family net income for 2014. Universal Child Care Benefits and income from Registered Disability Savings Plans are **not** included when determining assistance levels.

Deductible information for patients for 2016

Fair PharmaCare registrants can access their deductible and family maximum information in the following ways:

Through the [PharmaCare website](#), individuals can:

- use the Fair PharmaCare Calculator to estimate their deductible information, or
- request that a Confirmation of Fair PharmaCare Coverage be mailed to them.

Individuals can also contact Health Insurance BC and provide appropriate identifying information:

- From the Lower Mainland, call **604-683-7151**
- From the rest of B.C., call toll-free **1-800-663-7100**

Customer Service Representatives are available Monday to Friday 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Retroactive reimbursements

PharmaCare reimburses expenses above a family's Fair PharmaCare deductible only if the expenses were incurred after the family registered for the plan—but all eligible costs for the year count toward a family's Fair PharmaCare deductible.

However, if a family qualified for increased assistance during the year, their new, lower deductible and family maximum is applied to any eligible items bought after January 1 of the current year **or** the date of the family's Fair PharmaCare registration¹, whichever is later.

Families do not have to apply for retroactive reimbursement for 2016; it is calculated automatically after year-end. In the spring of 2016, a reimbursement cheque will be mailed to each qualifying individual or family.

BENEFITS

Designated High-Cost Drugs

Certain high-cost drugs are subject to a specific reimbursement limits under the Drug Price Regulation. To assist pharmacies with inventory maintenance, we will provide details of additions to the [List of Designated High-Cost Drugs](#) in this newsletter.

Effective January 18, 2016, the following product has been designated as a high-cost drug. PharmaCare will limit reimbursement to the manufacturer list price for the drug plus 5%.

DIN	DRUG NAME
2436027	HOLKIRA PAK (ombitasvir-paritaprevir-ritonavir and dasabuvir) 12.5mg/75 mg/50 mg and 250 mg tablets

¹ The date of a family's registration is the later of (a) the date the family first registered or (b) the date that a spouse was last added or removed from their Fair PharmaCare record.

2016 PROVIDER PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Following is the weekly provider payment schedule for 2016. Payment periods run Tuesday through Monday and payments are normally made the following Monday. Changes due to statutory holidays are noted in bold.

Weekly Payment Periods 2016

Start Date	End Date	Payment Date
Dec 22, 2015	Dec 28, 2015	Jan 5, 2016
Dec 29, 2015	Jan 4, 2016	Jan 11, 2016
Jan 5, 2016	Jan 11, 2016	Jan 18, 2016
Jan 12, 2016	Jan 18, 2016	Jan 25, 2016
Jan 19, 2016	Jan 25, 2016	Feb 1, 2016
Jan 26, 2016	Feb 1, 2016	Feb 9, 2016
Feb 2, 2016	Feb 8, 2016	Feb 15, 2016
Feb 9, 2016	Feb 15, 2016	Feb 22, 2016
Feb 16, 2016	Feb 22, 2016	Feb 29, 2016
Feb 23, 2016	Feb 29, 2016	Mar 7, 2016
Mar 1, 2016	Mar 7, 2016	Mar 14, 2016
Mar 8, 2016	Mar 14, 2016	Mar 21, 2016
Mar 15, 2016	Mar 21, 2016	Mar 30, 2016
Mar 22, 2016	Mar 28, 2016	Apr 4, 2016
Mar 29, 2016	Apr 4, 2016	Apr 11, 2016
Apr 5, 2016	Apr 11, 2016	Apr 18, 2016
Apr 12, 2016	Apr 18, 2016	Apr 25, 2016
Apr 19, 2016	Apr 25, 2016	May 2, 2016
Apr 26, 2016	May 2, 2016	May 9, 2016
May 3, 2016	May 9, 2016	May 16, 2016
May 10, 2016	May 16, 2016	May 24, 2016
May 17, 2016	May 23, 2016	May 30, 2016
May 24, 2016	May 30, 2016	Jun 6, 2016
May 31, 2016	Jun 6, 2016	Jun 13, 2016
Jun 7, 2016	Jun 13, 2016	Jun 20, 2016
Jun 14, 2016	Jun 20, 2016	Jun 27, 2016
Jun 21, 2016	Jun 27, 2016	Jul 5, 2016
Jun 28, 2016	Jul 4, 2016	Jul 11, 2016
Jul 5, 2016	Jul 11, 2016	Jul 18, 2016
Jul 12, 2016	Jul 18, 2016	Jul 25, 2016
Jul 19, 2016	Jul 25, 2016	Aug 2, 2016
Jul 26, 2016	Aug 1, 2016	Aug 8, 2016
Aug 2, 2016	Aug 8, 2016	Aug 15, 2016
Aug 9, 2016	Aug 15, 2016	Aug 22, 2016
Aug 16, 2016	Aug 22, 2016	Aug 29, 2016

Start Date	End Date	Payment Date
Aug 23, 2016	Aug 29, 2016	Sep 6, 2016
Aug 30, 2016	Sep 5, 2016	Sep 12, 2016
Sep 6, 2016	Sep 12, 2016	Sep 19, 2016
Sep 13, 2016	Sep 19, 2016	Sep 26, 2016
Sep 20, 2016	Sep 26, 2016	Oct 3, 2016
Sep 27, 2016	Oct 3, 2016	Oct 11, 2016
Oct 4, 2016	Oct 10, 2016	Oct 17, 2016
Oct 11, 2016	Oct 17, 2016	Oct 24, 2016
Oct 18, 2016	Oct 24, 2016	Oct 31, 2016
Oct 25, 2016	Oct 31, 2016	Nov 7, 2016
Nov 1, 2016	Nov 7, 2016	Nov 15, 2016
Nov 8, 2016	Nov 14, 2016	Nov 21, 2016
Nov 15, 2016	Nov 21, 2016	Nov 28, 2016
Nov 22, 2016	Nov 28, 2016	Dec 5, 2016
Nov 29, 2016	Dec 5, 2016	Dec 12, 2016
Dec 6, 2016	Dec 12, 2016	Dec 19, 2016
Dec 13, 2016	Dec 19, 2016	Dec 28, 2016

Monthly Payment Periods 2016

Methadone, Rural Incentive, Tamiflu, Service Claims, GST

Start Date	End Date	Payment Date
Nov 1, 2015	Nov 30, 2015	Jan 5, 2016
Dec 1, 2015	Dec 31, 2015	Feb 1, 2016
Jan 1, 2016	Jan 31, 2016	Mar 7, 2016
Feb 1, 2016	Feb 29, 2016	Apr 4, 2016
Mar 1, 2016	Mar 31, 2016	May 2, 2016
Apr 1, 2016	Apr 30, 2016	Jun 6, 2016
May 1, 2016	May 31, 2016	Jul 5, 2016
Jun 1, 2016	Jun 30, 2016	Aug 2, 2016
Jul 1, 2016	Jul 31, 2016	Sep 6, 2016
Aug 1, 2016	Aug 31, 2016	Oct 3, 2016
Sep 1, 2016	Sep 30, 2016	Nov 7, 2016
Oct 1, 2016	Oct 31, 2016	Dec 5, 2016