BC PharmaCare Newsletter

December 19, 2014 Edition 14-010

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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. December 31.
- We anticipate the website registration service will resume before 8 a.m. on January 1.
- Full phone registration services via Health Insurance BC representatives will resume at 8 a.m. on January 2nd.

To subscribe or unsubscribe from our newsletter notification list, or to find out more about our programs, visit PharmaCare on the Web: www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare

PHARMACARE PROVIDER ENROLLMENT

As announced in PharmaCare Newsletter 14-009 (November 27, 2014), important changes have been made to the BC PharmaCare enrollment process.

Due to the new enrollment criteria set out in the Provider Regulation (www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/pdf/prov-reg.pdf), all pharmacies, facilities, and other places where drugs, devices, substances or related services are provided ("sites") must re-apply for enrollment in the PharmaCare program if they wish to submit claims to PharmaCare.

Current PharmaCare Enrollment Agreements with the Province will expire on May 31, 2015.

Notification requirements for site changes—Be sure to continue to notify PharmaCare Information Support of any changes at your site (e.g., changes in ownership, manager, location, contact information) as required under your current PharmaCare Enrollment Agreement.

In the new year, a **Provider Information Change Form** will be available online and copies will be included in the Welcome Package that will be sent to you after your enrollment has been approved.

Filling out forms—Please ensure that you read and understand the instructions given in the Enrollment Guide before submitting your application. Delays caused by incomplete/incorrect information may affect your ability to submit claims to PharmaCare.

Did you receive your enrollment package? Enrollment packages have been mailed to current sites. If you have not received your package by December 19, please call the PharmaNet Help Desk.

Questions? Please note that the PharmaNet HelpDesk can assist you only with general inquiries about the enrollment process. For detailed information on completing the enrollment forms, we recommend you seek legal advice.

BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIP (BGTS) QUANTITY LIMIT—POLICY REMINDER & CLAIMS SUBMISSION

Effective **January 1, 2015**, PharmaCare is introducing annual quantity limits of blood glucose test strips. A patient's annual limit for PharmaCare coverage of test strips will be based on the diabetes treatment they are receiving. Detailed information was provided in last month's PharmaCare Newsletter 14-009 (November 27, 2014).

Information for patients who may need to test more frequently

Pharmacists can reassure patients that, if they have a medical need to test more frequently, access to coverage of additional strips is available:

- If they are **not using insulin**, patients can speak to their doctor or visit a Diabetes Education Centre. Family doctors and diabetes educators can request 100 additional strips for the year by sending a request to PharmaCare.
- If they are **using insulin**, or **not using insulin but need more than 100 extra strips**, a patient's endocrinologist can write to PharmaCare explaining their medical need. PharmaCare considers each case individually to ensure patients are able to test appropriately. The quantity approved under such requests will vary based on patient need.

Patients can also be directed to the PharmaCare BGTS information at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/bgts.html.

BGTS Quantity Limit Information for patients—Now available in multiple languages

Information on the new BGTS Quantity Limit policy is now available in English, French, Chinese - Simplified, Chinese - Traditional, Filipino, Persian, Punjabi, Korean and Vietnamese. For these and other publications, visit our Patient Information page at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/patientinfo.html.

Blood Glucose Test Strip (BGTS) Quantity Limit, continued

Submitting claims for BGTS after January 1, 2015

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 at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/pins/bgpins.html before submitting claims.

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

Claims Submission Procedures

Submitting claims for strips within the patient's annual limit or for which the patient or a third-party insurer will pay:

- Use the PIN indicated on the list as the "Regular (Within Annual Limit/Patient Pay)" PIN.

  *If the claim adjudication response is **LO – Benefit maximum exceeded**, the patient has exceeded their annual limit.*

Submitting claims for strips above the patient's annual limit:

- **A Special Authority may be in place in some cases.** If the patient indicates they requested additional strips through their doctor or a Diabetes Education Centre, please phone the PharmaCare Information Line or contact the PharmaNet HelpDesk to ask if Special Authority coverage is in place for additional strips.

  ⇒ **If Special Authority is in place**:

    - Create a new claim with a new prescription number and use the PIN indicated on the list as the "Special Authority" PIN.

      IMPORTANT: If Special Authority is in place, but you process the claim with the Regular PIN instead of the Special Authority PIN, the cost of the claim will not count toward the patient's Fair PharmaCare deductible.

  ⇒ **If Special Authority is NOT in place**:

    - Advise the patient that they can see their doctor or visit a Diabetes Education Centre if they believe they may be eligible for approval of additional strips, **OR**
    - Submit the claim using the "Regular (Within Annual Limit/Patient Pay)" PIN.

Submitting claims at the start of each calendar year

- On January 1 of each following year, for all patients, be sure to revert to using the "Regular" PINs for all patients.

FAIR PHARMACARE—ANNUAL UPDATE

Fair PharmaCare deductibles for 2015

On **January 1, 2015**, PharmaNet will be updated to reflect annual deductibles and family maximums for 2015 for all individuals and families registered in the plan.

Deductible accumulations will be reset to zero. Fair PharmaCare coverage levels for 2015 are based on family net income for 2013. Universal Child Care Benefits and income from Registered Disability Savings Plans are **not** included when determining assistance levels.

Deductible information for patients for 2015

Fair PharmaCare registrants can access information about their deductible and their family maximum on our **website** or by **contacting Health Insurance BC**.

Fair PharmaCare—Annual Update, continued

Through the PharmaCare website at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare, individuals can:

- use the Fair PharmaCare Calculator to estimate this 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 registration[1], whichever is later.

Families do not have to apply for retroactive reimbursement for 2014; it is calculated automatically after year-end. In the spring of 2015, a reimbursement cheque will be mailed to each qualifying individual or family.

BENEFITS

Regular Benefits

The following product is an eligible benefit for Fair PharmaCare and Plans B, C, and F.

DIN	DRUG NAME	PLAN G	PLAN P
02369362	Acuvail™ (ketoralac) 0.45% ophthalmic solution	N	N

Limited Coverage Drug Program Benefits

The following product is an eligible benefit 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 page on the PharmaCare website at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/saindex.html.

DIN	DRUG NAME	PLAN G	PLAN P
02416328	Aubagio™ (teriflunomide) 14 mg tablet	N	N

The Special Authority criteria for the following products have been modified. For the revised Special Authority criteria, please visit the PharmaCare Special Authority Information page at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/saindex.html.

DIN	DRUG NAME
02350092	Actemra® (tocilizumab) 80 mg/4 mL solution for intravenous infusion
02350106	Actemra® (tocilizumab) 200 mg/10 mL solution for intravenous infusion
02350114	Actemra® (tocilizumab) 400 mg/20 mL solution for intravenous infusion
02269201	Avonex® (interferon beta-1a) 30mcg/0.5ml syringe kit

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[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.

Limited coverage drug program benefits, continued

DIN	DRUG NAME
02169649	Betaseron® (interferon beta-1b) 0.3 mg vial
02245619	Copaxone® (glatiramer acetate) 20 mg/ml syringe
02337819	Extavia® (interferon beta-1b) 0.3 mg vial
02282097	Orencia® (abatacept) 250 mg /15 mL intravenous infusion vial
02237319	Rebif® (interferon beta-1a) 22mcg/0.5ml syringe
02237320	Rebif® (interferon beta-1a) 44mcg/0.5ml syringe
02318253	Rebif® (interferon beta-1a) 66mcg/1.5 cartridge
02318261	Rebif® (interferon beta-1a) 132mcg/1.5 cartridge
02404508	Tecfidera® (dimethyl fumarate) 120 mg capsule
02420201	Tecfidera® (dimethyl fumarate) 240 mg capsule
02370816	Victrelis™ (boceprevir) 200 mg capsule
02371448	Victrelis Triple™ (boceprevir/ribavirin/peginterferon-alfa-2b) 200mg-80 pen kit
02371456	Victrelis Triple™ (boceprevir/ribavirin/peginterferon-alfa-2b) 200mg-100 pen kit
02371464	Victrelis Triple™ (boceprevir/ribavirin/peginterferon-alfa-2b) 200mg-120 pen kit
02371472	Victrelis Triple™ (boceprevir/ribavirin/peginterferon-alfa-2b) 200mg-150 pen kit

Non-Benefits

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

DIN	DRUG NAME
02323052	Inspra® (eplerenone) 25 mg tablet
02323060	Inspra® (eplerenone) 50 mg tablet
02403900	Neupro® (rotigotine) 2 mg/24 hr transdermal system (patch)
02403927	Neupro® (rotigotine) 4 mg/24 hr transdermal system (patch)
02403935	Neupro® (rotigotine) 6 mg/24 hr transdermal system (patch)
02403943	Neupro® (rotigotine) 8 mg/24 hr transdermal system (patch)

2015 PROVIDER PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Following is the weekly provider payment schedule for 2015. 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 2015

Start Date	End Date	Payment Date
Dec 16, 2014	Dec 22, 2014	Dec 31, 2014
Dec 23, 2014	Dec 29, 2014	**Jan 6, 2015**
Dec 30, 2014	Jan 5, 2015	Jan 12, 2015
Jan 6, 2015	Jan 12, 2015	Jan 19, 2015
Jan 13, 2015	Jan 19, 2015	Jan 26, 2015

2015 Provider Payment Schedule, continued

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

2015 Provider Payment Schedule, continued

Oct 6, 2015	Oct 12, 2015	Oct 19, 2015
Oct 13, 2015	Oct 19, 2015	Oct 26, 2015
Oct 20, 2015	Oct 26, 2015	Nov 2, 2015
Oct 27, 2015	Nov 2, 2015	Nov 9, 2015
Nov 3, 2015	Nov 9, 2015	**Nov 16, 2015**
Nov 10, 2015	Nov 16, 2015	Nov 23, 2015
Nov 17, 2015	Nov 23, 2015	Nov 30, 2015
Nov 24, 2015	Nov 30, 2015	Dec 7, 2015
Dec 1, 2015	Dec 7, 2015	Dec 14, 2015
Dec 8, 2015	Dec 14, 2015	Dec 21, 2015
Dec 15, 2015	Dec 21, 2015	**Dec 30, 2015**

2015 Monthly Payment Schedule
Methadone, Rural Incentive, Tamiflu, Service Claims, GST

START DATE	END DATE	RUN DATE (Thursday before last Monday)	PAYMENT DATE
Dec 1, 2014	Dec 31, 2014	Jan 22, 2015	Feb 2, 2015
Jan 1, 2015	Jan 31, 2015	Feb 19, 2015	Mar 2, 2015
Feb 1, 2015	Feb 28, 2015	Mar 26, 2015	**Apr 8, 2015**
Mar 1, 2015	Mar 31, 2015	Apr 23, 2015	May 4, 2015
Apr 1, 2015	Apr 30, 2015	May 21, 2015	Jun 1, 2015
May 1, 2015	May 31, 2015	Jun 25, 2015	**Jul 7, 2015**
Jun 1, 2015	Jun 30, 2015	Jul 23, 2015	**Aug 4, 2015**
Jul 1, 2015	Jul 31, 2015	Aug 27, 2015	**Sep 8, 2015**
Aug 1, 2015	Aug 31, 2015	Sep 24, 2015	Oct 5, 2015
Sep 1, 2015	Sep 30, 2015	Oct 22, 2015	Nov 2, 2015
Oct 1, 2015	Oct 31, 2015	Nov 26, 2015	Dec 7, 2015
Nov 1, 2015	Nov 30, 2015	Dec 24, 2015	Jan 5, 2016