



# BC PharmaCare Newsletter

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## METHADOSE™ AND BUPRENORPHINE/NALOXONE TO BE ADDED TO PLAN G FORMULARY

### What is changing?

Effective **Feb. 1, 2017**, PharmaCare will cover Methadose™ for maintenance and buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone® and generics) under its Psychiatric Medications Plan (Plan G). By covering these drugs under Plan G, 100% PharmaCare coverage may be available to more individuals with lower incomes.

### Who benefits?

An individual may benefit from this change if they:

- are not receiving BC Income Assistance (i.e., not covered under Plan C), and
- have a deductible or family maximum under Fair PharmaCare, and
- meet the eligibility criteria for Plan G coverage.

Note that full coverage of Methadose™ and buprenorphine/naloxone is already available to individuals receiving B.C. Income Assistance and to those who do not have a deductible or family maximum under Fair PharmaCare.

*Continued on pg. 2...*

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.

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## Who is eligible for Plan G?

Plan G provides coverage if:

- the individual attests that:
    - the cost of prescribed psychiatric medication is a significant barrier to taking their medication, and
    - they have no other financial coverage, and
    - they believe they qualify for Medical Services Plan (MSP) Premium Assistance
- Note: MSP Premium Assistance is available to those with a family adjusted net income of up to \$42,000 plus \$3,000 per dependent.*
- The individual's physician or nurse practitioner certifies that:
    - the patient has been hospitalized for a psychiatric condition, and/or
    - without prescribed medication, the patient is likely to be hospitalized for a psychiatric condition, and/or
    - without prescribed medication, the patient or another person is likely to suffer serious physical or psychological harm, or economic loss.

## How do people apply for Plan G?

Individuals requiring Plan G coverage can speak to their physician, nurse practitioner or [Mental Health and Substance Use Centre](#). If they are eligible, a physician or nurse practitioner can apply on their behalf by completing an [Application for PharmaCare Plan G \(HLTH 3497\)](#). Plan G coverage is approved for a specific period of time (usually 1 year) after which the physician or nurse practitioner can re-apply for continued coverage, if needed.

>> For more information about PharmaCare Plan G, please see the [Plan G formulary](#) on the PharmaCare website.

## Drug coverage details

- For methadone maintenance, PharmaCare covers only Methadose™.
- Buprenorphine/naloxone is subject to the PharmaCare [Low Cost Alternative Program](#). Currently, only generic versions of buprenorphine/naloxone are fully covered.

Please note that, as Plan G provides 100% coverage, the [Full Payment Policy](#) applies (which means pharmacies cannot charge a patient more than the drug cost/dispensing fee that PharmaCare will reimburse if the patient and product are fully covered).

## STREAMLINED PLAN P DRUG ADJUDICATION PROCESS FOR NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM PATIENTS

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As of Jan. 1, 2017, the Ministry has streamlined the process for adjudicating palliative care drugs for Non-Insured Health Benefits Program (NIHB) patients who are also enrolled in PharmaCare Plan P (Palliative Care). PharmaCare no longer requires the patient to provide written confirmation from NIHB that a drug is not covered by their program before covering that palliative care drug for the patient.

If, when filling a prescription for a palliative NIHB patient who is enrolled in Plan P, the palliative care drug is not covered by NIHB, you can immediately call HIBC to ask that the drug be adjudicated under Plan P.

For patients without Plan P coverage or for drugs not included in the Plan P formulary, normal procedures apply.

## BENEFITS

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### Regular Benefits

The following new product is now an eligible PharmaCare benefit for Fair PharmaCare and Plans C and F.

DIN	DRUG NAME
02293854	Plan B® (levonorgestrel) 1.5 mg tablet