



BC PharmaCare Newsletter

July 13, 2012 Edition 12-008

Published by the Pharmaceutical Services Division to provide information for British Columbia’s health care providers

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DRUG SUPPLY SHORTAGE—REMINDER OF PROCESS



As you are aware, there is a Canada-wide shortage of certain injectable drugs manufactured by Sandoz. For updates, visit www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/supplyissues.html.

If pharmacists have any concerns regarding their allocated amount of specific Sandoz products, they should **first** contact their local Sandoz representative directly to determine the best course of action. Pharmacists may also want to contact the Sandoz Canada head office:

Toll-Free: 1-800-361-3062

Email: customer-2.service@sandoz.com

If you have a supply issue that cannot be resolved by your Sandoz representative (or the Sandoz head office), you can contact the PharmaNet HelpDesk. The Help Desk will take the details of your issue and the Ministry will assist wherever possible. Thank you for your efforts in helping us manage this issue and for continuing to deliver high-quality care to patients.

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.

PHARMACARE INDUCEMENT POLICY

As announced in previous PharmaCare Newsletters, [PharmaCare policy](#) prohibits pharmacies from offering inducements to secure prescription orders, or in relation to the provision of a drug, medical supply, or service on the portion of the cost of that drug, supply or service paid for or reimbursed by the Province through PharmaCare.

PharmaCare deferred the enforcement of the requirements set out in the [PharmaCare Enrolment Agreement \(Section 3.12\)](#) with respect to all loyalty programs, including prescription transfer programs, until July 4, 2011. This deferral gave pharmacies time to decommission these programs and fulfill their commitments to customers.

Since the implementation of the policy, some pharmacies have sought clarification as to what constitutes an inducement. Here are responses to some of the most frequently asked questions.

Can pharmacies offer gift certificates, discounts, or points toward any type of “club card” to be used for in-store purchases?

These types of promotions are fine as long as they are based on the portion of the prescription paid for by the individual, **not** PharmaCare.

Do things like free massages, coupons or coffee cards count?

Anything that can be redeemed for a gift or other benefit is considered an inducement and must not be provided on the portion of costs paid by PharmaCare. However, services offered at no charge that are not linked to purchases are not considered inducements.

Please note

When a reward cannot be applied to only the portion paid by the individual, it is considered an inducement.

Would offering bonus AirMiles to customers who create a profile at a grocery store pharmacy qualify as an inducement?

As noted above, this would be considered an inducement only if the creation of a profile was linked to the purchase of a prescription paid in whole or in part by PharmaCare.

What about promises of gifts or other rewards to customers who transfer their prescriptions to a new pharmacy?

These would also be considered an inducement if PharmaCare paid for the prescription in part or in whole, as the gift or reward cannot be apportioned to only the cost paid by the individual.

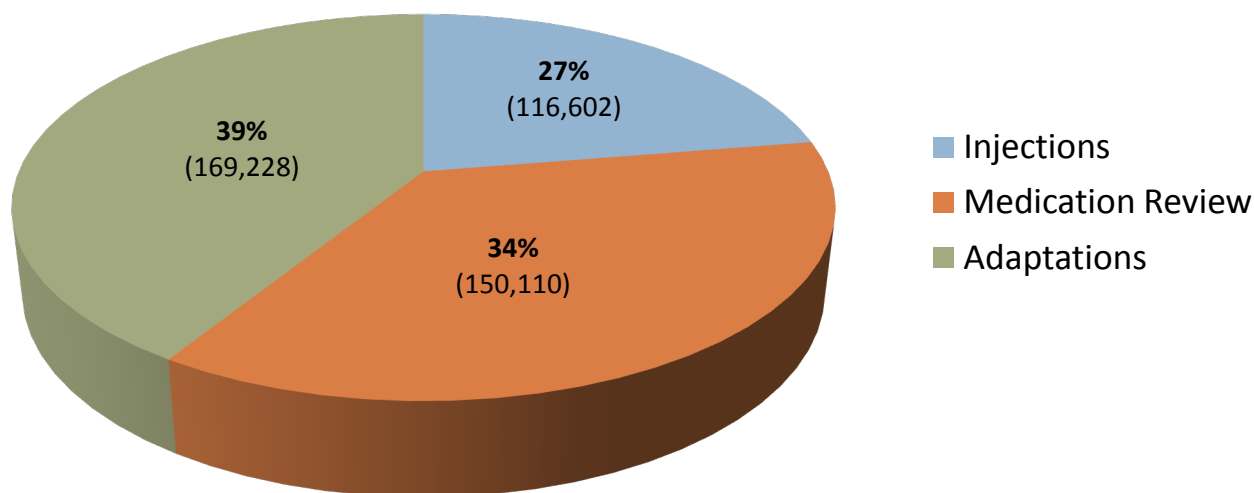
Are offers such as donations to a local food bank or charity for each prescription filled considered inducements?

Once again, this type of offer is considered an inducement if the prescription is paid in whole or in part by PharmaCare.



BC CLINICAL SERVICES

This graph shows the number and percentages of BC clinical services claimed by pharmacists in 2011/12.



SPECIAL SERVICES FEES

The number of Special Services fees that PharmaCare paid each month over the past year:

Jun 2012.....1,576	Feb 2012.....1,502	Oct 2011 1,891
May 2012.....1,532	Jan 2012.....1,409	Sep 2011 1,949
Apr 2012..... 1,316	Dec 2011..... 2,112	Aug 2011..... 1,804
Mar 2012.....1,439	Nov 2011 2,002	Jul 2011..... 1,838

BENEFITS

Changes to PharmaCare Benefit Status

Effective August 14, 2012, the following are regular PharmaCare benefits, subject to the Low Cost Alternative (LCA) Program, for Fair PharmaCare and Plans Plan B, C, F, and, if indicated below, Plan G and Plan P. Please note that coverage will be up to 50% of the LCA price for 50 mg sumatriptan.

DIN	DRUG NAME	PLAN G	PLAN P
02256428	PMS-Sumatriptan 25mg tablet	No	No
02257882	CO-Sumatriptan 25mg tablet	No	No
02268906	Mylan-Sumatriptan 25mg tablet	No	No
02286815	Teva Sumatriptan DF 25mg tablet	No	No
02286513	Sumatriptan 25mg tablet	No	No