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**Refills**

Your dose of drug information in between sessions

**Q:** Does vaginal prasterone offer an additional advantage on measures of sexual dysfunction compared to vaginal estrogen products accessible in the National Pharmacare formulary (Plan NP)?

**A:** The answer is in the current edition of [PAD Refills](#). Make sure to [subscribe](#) so you don't miss out on news and updates!

The PharmaCare Newsletter team works from the territory of the ləkʷəŋən People, known today as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. Our gratitude extends to them and all Indigenous Peoples on whose territories and lands we live and work.

BC PharmaCare counts on pharmacies and device providers to practice cultural safety and humility. To learn more, read *Coming Together for Wellness*, a series of articles by the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and PharmaCare, and consider taking the *San'yas* Indigenous Cultural Safety course.

The PharmaCare Newsletter is published by the Health System Policy & Oversight Division to provide information to B.C.'s healthcare providers.

[gov.bc.ca/pharmacies](http://gov.bc.ca/pharmacies)  
[gov.bc.ca/programs](http://gov.bc.ca/programs)  
[gov.bc.ca/deviceproviders](http://gov.bc.ca/deviceproviders)

## New Plan Z OAT benefit: Kadian® 200 mg capsule

PharmaCare has listed [Kadian® 200 mg](#), an opioid analgesic that may be used as a slow-release oral morphine (SROM) opioid agonist treatment (OAT) for the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD).

Kadian 200 mg capsules are a full benefit, both under the **DIN 02559722** for analgesia and the **PIN 22123405** for OUD, under the following PharmaCare plans:

- [Plan B \(Long-term Care\)](#)
- [Plan C \(Income Assistance and Family Services\)](#)
- [Plan G \(Psychiatric Medications\)](#)
- [Plan Z \(Assurance\)](#)

The 200 mg capsules could potentially help client adherence to OUD treatment by reducing pill burden.

Kadian 200 mg capsules are larger than the 100 mg capsules, so may not be appropriate for clients who have trouble swallowing.

### Points to discuss with clients who may want to switch to Kadian 200 mg

- Kadian 200 mg capsules look different to other strengths of SROM. They are clear, imprinted with “K200”, and do not have colour banding
- The 200 mg capsule is large and may be hard to swallow
- The 200 mg strength may mean fewer capsules to take

### Resources

- [OAT PINs and DINs](#)
- [Opioid use disorder](#) – links to OUD resources for pharmacists and other clinicians

## Newly updated vaccines guide

PharmaCare has released two new resources for pharmacists.

### Pharmacists and publicly funded vaccines in B.C. guide

The newly refreshed [Pharmacists and publicly funded vaccines in B.C. guide](#) is now available as a web page as well as a PDF. This guide has information about accessing and administering publicly funded vaccines to eligible B.C. residents.



### Quick Reference Guide

In addition to the updated guide, a new 2-page quick reference sheet with key vaccination information and links, as well as instructions for reporting an adverse event following immunization (AEFI), is available for printing and posting: [Quick Reference Guide for B.C. Pharmacists: Publicly Funded Vaccines \(PDF, 176KB\)](#)



### Resources

- [Pharmacists and publicly funded vaccines in B.C. guide](#) – webpage
- [Pharmacists and publicly funded vaccines in B.C. guide \(PDF, 338KB\)](#) – PDF
- [Quick reference guide for B.C. pharmacists \(PDF, 176KB\)](#) – 2-page PDF guide

## TI Letter: Appropriate hemoglobin A1c testing frequency to monitor patients with type 2 diabetes



The Therapeutics Initiative published a Therapeutics Letter examining how often hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) testing is needed to monitor people with type 2 diabetes. Evidence suggests that for patients with stable diabetes, testing every 6 months is as effective as testing every 3 months. More frequent testing does not improve outcomes and may contribute to unnecessary healthcare use.

Read the full letter at [Therapeutics Initiative | \[161\] Appropriate hemoglobin A1c testing frequency to monitor patients with type 2 diabetes](#)

### Resources

- [Therapeutics Initiative | \[161\] Appropriate hemoglobin A1c testing frequency to monitor patients with type 2 diabetes](#)

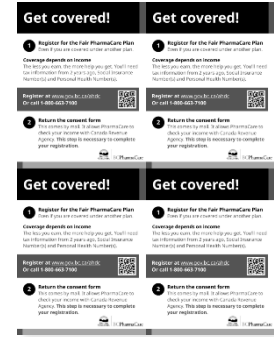
# New Fair PharmaCare registration handout

The PharmaCare communications team has created a new handout for PharmaCare providers to print and share with their clients. The new [Get covered! \(PDF, 74KB\)](#) handout outlines the two basic steps B.C. residents take to register for Fair PharmaCare.

Please print and post or share the full-size handout in your pharmacy, or print and cut the tile version to give out to clients. Both versions of the graphic are available in colour or greyscale.

## Resources

- [Get Covered! \(PDF, 74KB\)](#) – handout (colour)
- [Get Covered! \(PDF, 44KB\)](#) – handout (greyscale)
- [Get Covered! \(PNG, 367KB\)](#) – tile (colour)
- [Get Covered! \(PNG, 356KB\)](#) – tile (greyscale)



# Myth busting: Providing levonorgestrel-based ECs

The Ministry of Health is debunking common myths about providing emergency contraceptives (ECs) at B.C. pharmacies.

PharmaCare’s Plan NP covers the full cost of three levonorgestrel ECs under Plan NP. Contingency One, Backup Plan Onestep, and MyStep are free for B.C. residents enrolled in MSP.

**Myth:** Levonorgestrel ECs require a prescription in B.C.

**Truth:** As a Schedule 3 medication, levonorgestrel ECs do not require a prescription.

A person may “self-select” a levonorgestrel EC. The pharmacist enters the claim in the client’s PharmaNet profile for billing purposes.

**Myth:** Levonorgestrel ECs are only free for clients as part of a [Minor Ailments and Contraception Service \(MACS\)](#) evaluation.

**Truth:** Levonorgestrel ECs are free whether the client:

- “Self-selects” a levonorgestrel EC **OR**
- Presents a prescription from a health care provider **OR**
- Receives the EC as part of a MACS

**Myth:** Pharmacists must meet with the client in person before providing levonorgestrel ECs.

**Truth:** Pharmacists may identify a client by phone or other method, using professional judgement and following [College of Pharmacists of BC regulations](#). Verifying a client in person is best practice, but this is not always possible. **MACS consultations must be provided in person to claim the MACS fee.**

**Myth:** Pharmacists can only provide one EC at a time.

**Truth:** Pharmacists can provide an EC for a client to take immediately and one or more ECs to keep for a later date if they need it.

This information is also available as an infographic. View [Myth busters! Providing emergency contraceptives in B.C. \(PDF, 114KB\)](#).

## Resources

- [Contraceptives – information for health professionals](#)
- [Minor Ailments and Contraception Service \(MACS\)](#)
- [Regulatory Statement 26-007: Client Identity Verification \(PDF, 119KB\) – College of Pharmacists of BC](#)
- [Myth busters: Providing emergency contraceptives in B.C. \(PDF, 114 KB\)](#)

**Emergency Contraceptives (ECs)**  
Myth Busters: Providing ECs

**MYTH** Levonorgestrel ECs require a prescription in B.C.

**TRUTH** ✓ As a Schedule 3 medication, **levonorgestrel ECs do not require a prescription.** A person may "self-select" a levonorgestrel EC. The pharmacist enters the claim in the client's PharmaNet profile for billing purposes.

**MYTH** Levonorgestrel ECs are only free for clients as part of a Minor Ailments and Contraception Service (MACS) evaluation

**TRUTH** ✓ Levonorgestrel ECs are free whether the client:

- "self-selects" levonorgestrel ECs **OR**
- presents a prescription from a health care provider **OR**
- receives the EC as part of a MACS

**MYTH** Pharmacists must meet a client in person to provide levonorgestrel EC

**TRUTH** ✓ Pharmacists may identify a client by phone or another method, using professional judgement and following College of Pharmacists of BC regulations. Identifying a client in person is best practice, but this is not always possible. MACS consultations must be provided in person to claim the MACS fee.

**MYTH** Pharmacists can only provide one EC at a time

**TRUTH** ✓ Pharmacists can provide an EC for a client to take immediately and one or more ECs to keep for a later date if they need it.

Questions? Visit [www.gov.bc.ca/ContraceptivesPros](http://www.gov.bc.ca/ContraceptivesPros)

## Formulary and listing updates

### Limited coverage benefits: nintedanib (generics), guselkumab (Tremfya®), mirikizumab (Omvoh®), risankizumab (Skyrizi®), pegfilgrastim (Fulphila®, Lapelga®, Ziextenzo®)

PharmaCare has added the following limited coverage items to the PharmaCare drug list. Special Authority approval is required for coverage.

<b>Drug name</b>	<a href="#">nintedanib (generics)</a>
<b>Date</b>	May 7, 2026
<b>Indication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the treatment of mild to moderate idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) in adult patients</li> <li>For the treatment of chronic fibrosing interstitial lung diseases (ILDs) with a progressive phenotype also known as progressive fibrosing ILD (PF-ILD) or progressive pulmonary fibrosis (PPF) in adult patients</li> </ul>
<b>DINs</b>	Refer to the <a href="#">Low Cost Alternative (LCA) and Reference Drug Program (RDP) Data Files</a> for eligible DINs.
<b>Special notes</b>	<p>As of June 6, 2026, brand name nintedanib (Ofev®) will become a partial PharmaCare benefit. Clients wanting to transition to a generic brand of nintedanib may enrol in a patient support program. Contact information is below. PharmaCare coverage is not affected by participation in a patient support program (participation is voluntary).</p> <p><b>JAMPCare</b>  Phone: 1-888-202-8809  Fax: 1-888-558-5518  Email: <a href="mailto:Help@JAMPCare-Support.ca">Help@JAMPCare-Support.ca</a></p> <p><b>AuroCare</b>  Phone: 1-877-230-5612  Email: <a href="mailto:Support@AuroCare.ca">Support@AuroCare.ca</a>  Website: <a href="#">AuroCare</a></p>

<b>Drug name</b>	guselkumab (Tremfya®)		
<b>Date</b>	May 27, 2026		
<b>Indication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the treatment of adult patients with <a href="#">moderately to severely active Crohn's disease</a></li> <li>For the treatment of adult patients with <a href="#">moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis</a></li> </ul>		
<b>DINs</b>	02487314 02469758 02566877 02559153 02559145	<b>Strength &amp; form</b>	100 mg/mL auto-injector (100 mg) 100 mg/mL pre-filled syringe (100 mg) 100 mg/mL pre-filled pen (100 mg) 10 mg/mL vial (200 mg) 100 mg/mL pre-filled pen (200 mg)

<b>Drug name</b>	<a href="#">mirikizumab (Omvoh®)</a>		
<b>Date</b>	May 27, 2026		
<b>Indication</b>	For the treatment of adult patients with moderately to severely active Crohn's disease.		
<b>DINs</b>	02539861 02559242 02559234	<b>Strength &amp; form</b>	300 mg/15 mL vial for infusion 100 mg/mL (100 mg/mL and 200 mg/2 mL SC pre-filled pen carton 100 mg/mL (100 mg/mL and 200 mg/2 mL SC pre-filled syringe carton

<b>Drug name</b>	<a href="#">risankizumab (Skyrizi®)</a>		
<b>Date</b>	May 27, 2026		
<b>Indication</b>	For the treatment of adult patients with moderately to severely active ulcerative colitis.		
<b>DINs</b>	02532107 02532093 02552507	<b>Strength &amp; form</b>	600 mg/10 mL vial 360 mg/2.4 mL pre-filled cartridge with on-body injector 180 mg/1.2 mL pre-filled cartridge with on-body injector

<b>Drug name</b>	<a href="#">pegfilgrastim (Fulphila®, Lapelga®, Ziextenzo®)</a>		
<b>Date</b>	May 27, 2026		
<b>Indication</b>	For the treatment of patients with non-myeloid malignancies to decrease the incidence of infection, as manifested by febrile neutropenia.		
<b>DINs</b>	02484153 (Fulphila) 02474565 (Lapelga) 02497395 (Ziextenzo)	<b>Strength &amp; form</b>	6 mg/0.6 mL pre-filled syringe

## Regular benefits: morphine sulfate (Kadian®)

PharmaCare has decided to list the following drug as a regular benefit for the noted indications.

<b>Drug name</b>	morphine sulfate (Kadian®)		
<b>Date effective</b>	May 7, 2026		
<b>Indication</b>	For the management of pain in adults severe enough to require daily, continuous, long-term opioid treatment, and that is opioid-responsive; and for which alternative options are inadequate.		
<b>DIN</b>	02559722	<b>Strength &amp; form</b>	200 mg ER capsule
<b>Notes</b>	Use PIN 22123405 in PharmaNet when dispensing as part of OAT. Kadian® is a PharmaCare Plan Z benefit when prescribed as OAT. Read more in <a href="#">Plan Z OAT benefit: Kadian® 200 mg capsule</a>		

## Non-benefits: teplizumab (Tziel®), levothyroxine sodium for injection

PharmaCare has decided not to cover the following drugs for the noted indications.

<b>Drug name</b>	<a href="#">teplizumab (Tziel®)</a>		
<b>Date</b>	May 8, 2026		
<b>Indication</b>	To delay the onset of stage 3 type 1 diabetes (T1D) in adult and pediatric patients 8 years of age and older with stage 2 T1D.		
<b>DIN</b>	02557347	<b>Strength &amp; form</b>	2 mg/2 mL injection for intravenous infusion

<b>Drug name</b>	levothyroxine sodium for injection		
<b>Date</b>	May 28, 2026		
<b>Indication</b>	Treatment of overt hypothyroidism of any etiology when parenteral use is clinically warranted.		
<b>DIN</b>	02245948	<b>Strength &amp; form</b>	500 microgram vial for intravenous or intramuscular injection
<b>Special notes</b>	Modification of coverage from regular benefit to non-benefit.		

## EDRD benefits: crovalimab (Piasky®)

PharmaCare has initiated funding of the following drug through the [Expensive Drugs for Rare Diseases \(EDRD\)](#) process.

<b>Drug name</b>	crovalimab (Piasky®)		
<b>Date</b>	June 3, 2026		
<b>Indication</b>	Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH)		
<b>DIN</b>	02558262	<b>Strength &amp; form</b>	340 mg/2 mL solution for subcutaneous injection/intravenous infusion

## Price reduction: phenobarbital (Phenobarb)

Effective July 3, 2026, the prices of the following products will be reduced. Prices include 8% markup.

Drug name	Phenobarb		
Date effective	July 3, 2026		
DIN	Strength & form	Current price per unit	Reduced price per unit
00178799	15 mg tablet	\$0.1933	\$0.0896
00178802	30 mg tablet	\$0.2302	\$0.1066
00178810	60 mg tablet	\$0.3117	\$0.1445
00178829	100 mg tablet	\$0.4410	\$0.1977

## Your Voice: Input needed for drug decisions

The knowledge and experience of patients, caregivers and patient groups is integral to [B.C.'s drug review process](#). If you know someone who is taking one of the drugs below or who has a condition any of the drugs treat, please encourage them to visit [www.gov.bc.ca/BCyourvoice](http://www.gov.bc.ca/BCyourvoice)

Your Voice is now accepting input on the following drugs:

Drug	Indication	Input window
glecaprevir and pibrentasvir (Maviret®)	Treatment of acute hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in adults and pediatric patients 3 years of age and older and weighing at least 12 kg.	May 27 to June 23 at 11:59 pm
Tirzepatide (Zepbound®)	Chronic weight management in adults with an initial body mass index (BMI) of equal to or greater than 27 kg/m <sup>2</sup> and prediabetes.	May 27 to June 23 at 11:59 pm
Pegzilarginase (TBC)	Treatment of arginase 1 deficiency (ARG1-D), also known as hyperargininemia, in adults, adolescents and children aged 2 years and older.	May 27 to June 23 at 11:59 pm
Selumetinib (Koselugo™)	For the treatment of adult patients with neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) who have symptomatic, inoperable plexiform neurofibromas (PN).	May 27 to June 23 at 11:59 pm

### Did you know?



The Reference Drug Program (RDP) was launched in 1995.

Read [PharmaCare Trends 2024-25 \(PDF, 1MB\)](#) for more PharmaCare facts.

## June 15 Special Release: Formulary update – Generic semaglutide

Effective June 15, BC PharmaCare has listed two generic semaglutide products for treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus after inadequate glycemic control on metformin. They are manufactured by Apotex and Dr. Reddy's.

Apotex and Dr. Reddy's semaglutides are generic copies of the brand-name product Ozempic®. Semaglutide generics are equally safe, effective and have [bioequivalence](#) to the brand-name product Ozempic. Also, generic semaglutide has the same active ingredient and dosage forms as Ozempic.

Semaglutide generics are priced at a 65% discount to the brand-name product Ozempic. Prescribing or adapting prescriptions to generics can save B.C. residents and insurers significant costs without compromising quality of care.

The generics have been added to the [Low Cost Alternative program](#) with full coverage, which is available through a prescriber Special Authority (SA) request showing the patient meets [clinical criteria](#). If the patient's medications are covered by Fair PharmaCare, they may pay some or all of the cost, depending on if they have met their deductible or family maximum for the year.

To ensure and support supply stability for B.C. residents, the brand-name product Ozempic will remain fully covered through SA request.

<b>Drug name</b>	<a href="#">semaglutide (generics)</a>		
<b>Date</b>	June 15, 2026		
<b>Indication</b>	Type 2 diabetes mellitus		
<b>Apotex</b>			
<b>DINs</b>	02568020	<b>Strength &amp; form</b>	Semaglutide injection 0.25 mg or 0.5 mg/dose contains 3 mL solution (0.68 mg/mL) equivalent to 2 mg/pre-filled multi dose pen for 4 doses (0.25 mg/dose) and 2 doses (0.5 mg/dose)
	02568012		Semaglutide injection 1 mg/dose contains 3 mL solution (1.34 mg/mL) equivalent to 4 mg/pre-filled multi dose pen for 4 doses
<b>Dr. Reddy's</b>			

DINs		Strength & form	
	02567806		Semaglutide injection 0.25 mg or 0.5 mg/dose contains 1.5 mL solution (1.34 mg/mL) equivalent to 2 mg/pre-filled multi dose pen for 4 doses (0.25 mg/dose) and 2 doses (0.5 mg/dose).
	02567814		Semaglutide injection 1 mg/dose contains 3 mL solution (1.34 mg/mL) equivalent to 4 mg/pre-filled multi dose pen for 4 doses

### Resources

- [Limited coverage criteria – semaglutide](#)
- [Low Cost Alternative \(LCA\) and Reference Drug Program \(RDP\) Data Files](#)
- [LCA/RDP Updates Workbook \(XLS\)](#)
- [Low Cost Alternative program](#)
- [Canada's Drug Agency: What are bioavailability and bioequivalence? \(PDF, 310KB\)](#)