



BC PharmaCare Newsletter

March 24, 2015 Edition 15-003

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

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LOW COST ALTERNATIVE / REFERENCE DRUG PROGRAM—REMINDER

On **April 1, 2015**, changes to reimbursement limits will take effect. These include changes to maximum PharmaCare reimbursement for drugs in the:

- Low Cost Alternative (LCA) Program
- Reference Drug Program (RDP)
- Pan-Canadian Competitive Value Price Initiative for Generic Drugs

Please note that if a patient cannot take a low cost alternative or reference drug product, physicians can request [Special Authority](#) for full coverage of another drug.

For information on all drugs affected by the changes to reimbursement limits, see
 “Upcoming LCA/RDP drug listing and reimbursement changes” at
www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/lca/lcabooklets.html.

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.

NEW! BC DRUG SHORTAGES WEB PAGE

PharmaCare is pleased to announce the launch of a unique provincial **Drug Shortages Web Page** (www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/drugshortages.html).

This web page offers **up-to-date details on all shortages of drugs covered by PharmaCare** as reported by BC community pharmacies and confirmed with manufacturers and wholesalers.

This BC-specific information will allow British Columbians to find out about current local shortages, including the alternatives PharmaCare is covering to support effective patient care.

The web page is available to pharmacists, other healthcare professionals, drug distributors, manufacturers, and the public.

What information is available on the new web page?

Full details about BC drug shortages are provided in two Excel files. The files are automatically updated at the end of each business day.

For any PharmaCare-covered drug that is in short supply, the **Drug Shortages** file provides:

- details on the shorted drug as reported by BC Community pharmacies
- the alternate drug (if any) that PharmaCare will cover temporarily during the shortage
- the expected and actual duration of the shortage

The **Resolved Drug Shortages** file provides:

- information on drug shortages that have been resolved and for which temporary PharmaCare coverage of an alternate product has ended

The Excel files are searchable and can be sorted by drug chemical name, drug trade name, date shortage reported, DIN, manufacturer, and last updated date, allowing for easy access to information.

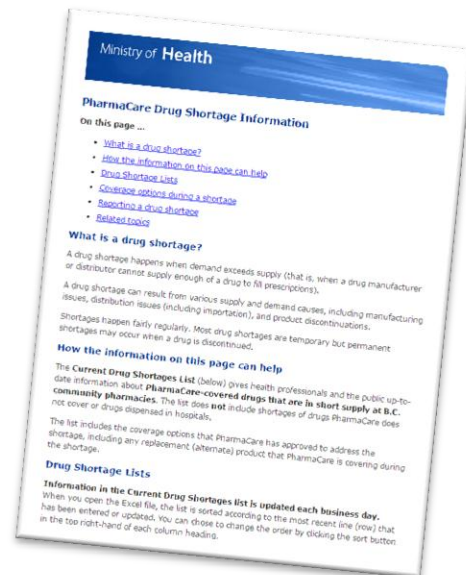
The BC Drug Shortages web page complements PharmaCare's ongoing collaboration with multiple stakeholders to ensure timely, efficient management of drug shortages. Thank you to our partners and stakeholders for their support of these efforts. PharmaCare also continues to lead various provincial, territorial, and federal task groups working on national management strategies for drug shortages.

EXCHANGE RATE UPDATE

For prosthetic suppliers

The price list for prosthetic components is adjusted, as needed, based on the U.S. Exchange Rate published by the Bank of Canada.

Rates are reviewed regularly and adjusted whenever the rate changes by more than five cents and remains at a variance of five cents or more for at least five working days.



New U.S. Exchange Rate \$1.2680*

*Based on the [Bank of Canada](http://www.bankofcanada.ca) rate at the close of business on March 10, 2015.

BENEFITS

PharmaCare Coverage of New Drug Therapies for Hepatitis C

Effective **March 24, 2015**, sofosbuvir (Sovaldi®) and sofosbuvir-ledipasvir (Harvoni™) for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C virus infection will be covered under the Limited Coverage Program, by Special Authority only.

THERAPY	CRITERIA
Sofosbuvir (Sovaldi®)	For the treatment of chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections genotype 1, 2 and 3 in adult patients with compensated liver disease (with no cirrhosis or with compensated cirrhosis) as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for genotype 1 HCV infection, in combination with pegylated-interferon/ribavirin (PegIFN/RBV) for treatment-naïve patients; and • for genotype 2 and 3 HCV infection, in combination with RBV, for treatment-naïve patients in whom interferon (IFN) is medically contraindicated OR PegIFN/RBV treatment-experienced patients.
Ledipasvir-sofosbuvir (Harvoni™)	For the treatment of HCV genotype 1 infection in treatment-naïve and treatment-experienced patients.

For the detailed coverage criteria, Special Authority Request forms, and educational documents, see

- **Sofosbuvir (Sovaldi®)**—www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/sofosbuvir.html
- **Ledipasvir-sofosbuvir (Harvoni™)**—www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/ledipasvir-sofosbuvir.html

Coverage of these drugs is subject to the rules of a patient's PharmaCare plan, including any annual deductible requirement. Retroactive coverage cannot be provided for prescriptions filled before Special Authority approval is in place.

A letter and detailed prescriber information regarding coverage of drugs for HCV infections have been mailed to practicing infectious disease specialists, gastroenterologists, and to general practitioners.

Regular Benefits

DIN	DRUG NAME	PLAN G	PLAN P
02419106	ipratropium bromide-salbutamol sulfate (Combivent® Respimat®) 20 mcg-100 mcg/actuation inhalation solution	N	Y
02240335	fosfomycin tromethamine (Monurol®) 3 g oral powder sachet	N	N

Limited Coverage Drug Program

The following products are eligible benefits 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](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/saindex.html) page on the PharmaCare website at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/saindex.html.

DIN	DRUG NAME	PLAN G	PLAN P
02418355	sofosbuvir (Sovaldi®) 400 mg tablet	N	N
02432226	ledipasvir/sofosbuvir (Harvoni™) 90mg/400mg tablet	N	N
02425890	ribavirin (IBAVYR™) 400 mg tablet	N	N
02425904	ribavirin (IBAVYR™) 600 mg tablet	N	N

Non-Benefits

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

DIN	DRUG NAME
02412764	riociguat (Adempas®) 0.5 mg tablet
02412772	riociguat (Adempas®) 1 mg tablet
02412799	riociguat (Adempas®) 1.5 mg tablet
02412802	riociguat (Adempas®) 2 mg tablet
02412810	riociguat (Adempas®) 2.5 mg tablet
02366924	betamethasone valerate (Luxiq®) 0.12% topical aerosol foam