

BC PHARMACARE NEWSLETTER

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The PharmaCare Newsletter is published by the Pharmaceutical, Laboratory & Blood Services Division to provide information to British Columbia's health care providers.

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 Newsletter territorial acknowledgement

Our team has thought carefully about how to properly and meaningfully acknowledge the territories on which we work and live. After consultation with the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, the resulting acknowledgement (immediately below) will be included in every newsletter issue henceforth and serves as a reminder of our commitment to ensure our content is culturally safe, accessible, and inclusive.

The PharmaCare Newsletter team works from the territory of the Lekwungen peoples, including the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. Our gratitude extends to them, and all the Indigenous peoples on whose territories and lands we build relationships.

Newsletter survey: closing date extended

The closing date for the [PharmaCare Newsletter survey](#) has been extended to May 27, 2021, to give interested readers more time to participate. Survey feedback helps us improve your reading experience and deliver a useful and engaging newsletter.

The survey takes about five minutes to complete, and submissions are anonymous and confidential. Your time and participation are greatly appreciated.

[Take the survey](#)

COVID-19 vaccines in pharmacy

Supplement of \$5.90 added to vaccination fee for COVID vaccinations

A \$5.90 supplement will be temporarily added to PharmaCare's vaccination administration fee for administering the COVID-19 vaccine in pharmacies, effective March 31, 2021. The temporary supplement offsets additional activities associated with COVID-19 vaccines, such as managing high public demand for information and appointments, in-depth patient screening, verifying a patient's COVID-19 vaccination information in the provincial immunization record, and daily reporting of vaccinations and inventory received, transferred or wasted, to support provincial data collection and tracking.

PharmaCare's fee for publicly funded vaccines is \$12.10. The supplement applies to COVID-19 immunizations only. With the supplement added to the vaccine administration fee, pharmacies will receive \$18.00 for every COVID-19 vaccine they administer. The supplement will be provided until indicated by further notice in the PharmaCare Newsletter.

The supplement acknowledges the extra work and key role that community pharmacies are taking on in B.C.'s COVID-19 immunization campaign.

Pharmacists may contact the PharmaNet Help Desk for a detailed report breaking down the vaccine payments by PIN, if interested.

Essential resources for pharmacies administering COVID-19 vaccines:

- See the [COVID-19 Immunization Guide for B.C. Pharmacies](#)

- For vaccine PINs, see [Publicly Funded Vaccines](#)
- Print off the [PharmaNet Cheat Sheet: COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- See the list of engaged pharmacies at [B.C. Pharmacies Offering COVID-19 Vaccinations](#)
- For patients: See the [What to Expect After Your Vaccine](#) handout from the BC Centre for Disease Control

PharmaNet fan-out messages: COVID-19 vaccine reporting

A number of pharmacies have received PharmaNet fan-out messages because they are reporting COVID-19 vaccines incorrectly. Correct reporting of COVID-19 vaccine administration and inventory received, transferred, wasted, and returned, is critical for tracking by the Public Immunization Registry (PIR) and for delivery of second doses.

Pharmacists need to register for CareConnect to access the PIR. You can [request access to CareConnect online](#). Please note, CareConnect considers pharmacies as “clinics” or “work sites.”

For details on fan-outs and how to correct your entries, please visit [PharmaNet Fan-outs for COVID-19 Vaccine Entry Errors](#).

For how to report COVID-19 vaccines in PharmaNet, see the [PharmaNet Cheat Sheet: COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

COVID-19 second doses: register through Get Vaccinated

The majority of eligible B.C. residents will need to be registered through Get Vaccinated (gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated) in order to book their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine -- whether they will receive their second dose in a pharmacy or a public clinic. This is required for people who received their first dose in a pharmacy.

If someone is already registered through [Get Vaccinated](#), they should not register again. The province will notify them when it's time to schedule their second dose, at the approximate 16-week timeline. If patients received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine in March or April, they would be eligible for their second dose in June or July.

Please encourage patients to register through [Get Vaccinated](#) so they can be scheduled for a second dose, if they aren't already registered. They can register online, by phone, or in-person at a Service BC centre.

The fastest way to register is online at Get Vaccinated, available 24/7.

To register online, patients will give their:

- Name and date of birth
- Postal code
- Personal health number (found on their BC Services Card, driver's licence or CareCard)
- Email address that is checked regularly or a phone number that can receive text messages

People can also register through a provincial call centre between 7 am and 7 pm (Pacific time), toll-free, at 1-833-838-2323, or in person at their nearest Service BC location.

If someone received their first shot in a pharmacy and have been invited to book a first dose through the provincial system, do not book the appointment. There may be technical issues with the online registration system as it expands to support booking for second doses, but the province is working to address these immediately.

Please note: registering through [Get Vaccinated](#) is not the same as registering for Health Gateway. Health Gateway provides British Columbia residents with secure access to a single view of their health information, including COVID-19 test results, immunization records, dispensed medication history and more. It is accessible by anyone 12 and older with a BC Services Card set up on a mobile device

BCCDC COVID-19 SPEAK Round 2 survey

The BC Centre for Disease Control is again surveying residents in B.C. on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey closes May 9, 2021 and can be accessed at www.bccdc.ca/covid19survey

Temporary addition in PharmaNet of imported phenelzine sulfate

Effective April 1, 2021, US-labelled phenelzine sulfate 15 mg tablet imported by Lupin Pharma was temporarily added as a regular benefit in PharmaNet. The tablet contains the same amount of active ingredient as the Canadian product (Nardil®). Pharmacists are to use **PIN 09858123** when entering the product into PharmaNet.

On June 2, 2020, phenelzine was added to the Health Canada Tier 3 drug shortages list. Tier 3 shortages are those that have the greatest potential impact on Canada's drug supply and health care system.

The temporary inclusion in PharmaNet follows amendments made to the Food and Drugs Act on March 25, 2020, that afford Health Canada more provisional ability to support efforts against drug shortages, including temporary importation of foreign products manufactured with similar standards.

For up-to-date information on any drug shortages, consult the [Canadian Drug Shortages](#) and the [PharmaCare Drug Information](#) websites.

First Nations Health Authority reminder: transitional payment request

The FNHA reminds pharmacists of its [Transitional Payment Request \(TPR\) process](#) that enables payment for one fill of a medication. The TPR helps clients who:

- Need to travel long distances to reach a pharmacy
- Have difficulty coordinating travel to a pharmacy
- Need immediate coverage but are facing Plan W issues which are expected to be resolved soon

The TPR helps clients avoid paying out of pocket for benefit items.

For questions, please contact First Nations Health Benefits at 1-855-550-5454.

Special Authority Transformation news

The Special Authority team is near the end of its journey to digitize Special Authority (SA). It will soon be much easier to submit and track requests. As the team devotes energy to this last push, you may see longer wait times for non-urgent requests. As soon as the [Special Authority Transformation](#) project is complete, adjudication times will be quicker than ever.

The turnaround time for **urgent** Special Authority requests is not affected by the Special Authority Transformation project. As always, they are processed within 24 hours. Requests are deemed urgent depending on medication required (this could include anticoagulants, oral antifungals, antibiotics, psychiatric and chemotherapy drugs, or for substance use disorder) and circumstances (e.g. hospital discharge, palliative treatment, MAiD, acute mental health or life-threatening conditions).

Limited coverage benefits

As of April 14, 2021, coverage for glecaprevir-pibrentasvir (Maviret™) has changed for treatment-naïve (TN) adult patients with compensated cirrhosis and chronic Hepatitis C genotype 3:

DRUG NAME	glecaprevir-pibrentasvir (Maviret™)		
CRITERIA CHANGE	Treatment duration is reduced from 12 weeks to 8 weeks for Genotype 3 TN patients with compensated cirrhosis		
CRITERIA EFFECTIVE	The coverage change on April 14, 2021 supersedes previous criteria changes		
INDICATIONS	Chronic Hepatitis C (CHC)		
DIN	02467550	STRENGTH AND FORM	100 mg/40 mg tablet
PLAN G BENEFIT	No	PLAN P BENEFIT	No

Effective April 28, 2021, coverage for benralizumab was extended to include an autoinjector version (see added DIN below):

DRUG NAME	benralizumab (Fasenra®)		
AMENDMENT EFFECTIVE	April 28, 2021		
INDICATIONS	adult patients with severe eosinophilic asthma		
DIN	02473232	STRENGTH AND FORM	30 mg/mL pre-filled syringe
	02496135		30 mg/mL pre-filled autoinjector pen
PLAN G BENEFIT	No	PLAN P BENEFIT	No
HIGH-COST LISTING	Yes	ALLOWABLE MARKUP	5%

Effective April 30, 2021, the following insulin pump has been added under the PIN below:

DEVICE NAME	Medtronic MiniMed 770G
DATE EFFECTIVE	April 30, 2021
TYPE	Insulin pump
PIN	45230019

Your Voice: Patient input needed for drug decisions

The knowledge and experience of patients, caregivers and patient groups is integral to [B.C.'s drug review process](#).

The Ministry depends on pharmacies and practitioners to help connect patients and their caregivers with opportunities to give input. If you have a patient currently taking one of the drugs under review or who has the condition the new drug treats, please encourage them to visit <http://www.gov.bc.ca/BCyourvoice>.

Currently input is needed for the following:

DRUG	liraglutide (Saxenda®)
INDICATION	chronic weight management in adults
INPUT WINDOW	April 21, 2021 to May 19, 2021

PharmaCare Scripts

PharmaCare is excited to introduce a new newsletter segment called PharmaCare Scripts. This ongoing segment will feature fictional narratives of pharmacist-patient encounters to highlight less common PharmaCare policies and procedures. We acknowledge that these stories won't depict the only way to handle certain situations, as pharmacies across B.C. have varying management styles and software packages. However, they may offer helpful guidance and inspire solutions.

Did you resolve an interesting pharmacy case, or do you have a question about applying a specific PharmaCare policy? Share your story or inquiry with PharmaCareInfo@gov.bc.ca and you might see a relevant PharmaCare Script posted!

PHN search at the pharmacy

Ali: Good morning. I would like to get this prescription filled.

Pharmacist: May I see your BC Services Card please?

A: I don't have one. I'm from Ontario.

P: I see. Have you ever lived in B.C. or had a prescription filled in B.C.?

A: I don't think so. I was born in Burnaby, B.C. My family moved to Ontario shortly afterward.

P: That's good to know. May I please see a piece of identification with your name and date of birth? Perhaps your Ontario driver's licence?

Ali produces her ID, and the pharmacist searches for Ali's Personal Health Number (PHN) in PharmaNet. She inputs her first name [ALI], last name [LEE], gender [F], and date of birth [MARCH 10, 1988], but no results come up. Puzzled, the pharmacist studies the PharmaCare quick reference guide, [Searching for PHNs on PharmaNet](#). She returns Ali's driver's licence and asks more questions to verify her identity.

P: Did you ever have a different last name?

A: Yes. My maiden name was CHEA.

P: Ok, let me try that.

In PharmaNet, the pharmacist changes the last name LEE to CHEA. Still, no results come up.

Referring to the quick reference guide, the pharmacist remembers that Ali was born in Burnaby. Because Ali left B.C. as a baby, her PharmaNet profile may never have been updated. It's possible that her first name was entered as BABY.

The pharmacist changes the first name from ALI to BABY and leaves the last name as CHEA. The search returns one result, and it's a match.

P: Good news! I was able to pull up your old patient record. However, it's out of date. May I update your profile to reflect your current contact information and address in Ontario? The reason I'm asking is that if you do need to fill a prescription in B.C. another time, it would be much easier for the pharmacist to verify your identity.

A: Sure!

The pharmacist updates Ali's PharmaNet profile, then fills her prescription. Since Ali is from out-of-province, she can't be enrolled in any PharmaCare plan, so she pays the full cost for her medications.