



# BC PharmaCare Newsletter

November 14, 2017 Edition 17-012

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

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## FIRST NATIONS HEALTH BENEFITS (PLAN W) UPDATES

### Compounds

PharmaCare covers compounds under Plan W as described in the PharmaCare Policy Manual, [Section 5.13](#). If a Plan W client is taking a compounded drug not covered under Plan W, their prescriber may need to reassess their therapy. In some cases, pharmacists may be able to adapt the drug therapy to one that PharmaCare covers.

### Over-the-Counter (OTC) Items

All Plan W over-the-counter (OTC) benefits are subject to standard PharmaCare pricing policies, described in the [PharmaCare Policy Manual, Section 5](#). Some OTC products may be subject to the [Low-Cost Alternative policy](#).

For [OTC drug items](#), PharmaCare reimburses the cost plus a dispensing fee (subject to usual PharmaCare maximums for cost and dispensing fees). For [non-drug items](#) (e.g., syringes), PharmaCare reimburses according to the Retail Pricing policy detailed in the [PharmaCare Policy Manual, Section 5.9](#). If you notice a disparity between the claimed amount and the amount PharmaCare reimburses, please call the PharmaNet Helpdesk for assistance.

Pharmacists may initiate treatment for [select OTC drugs and supplies](#). All other OTC benefits require a prescription from a physician, midwife, or nurse-practitioner.

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.

## Special Authority (SA) Expiration Dates

To ensure continuity of care as FNHA clients moved from NIHB coverage to Plan W, PharmaCare and FNHA provided Special Authorities (SAs) for some drugs. Some of these SAs have recently expired, or will expire in the near future. After an SA expires, prescribers can apply for another SA for that client.

The table below shows SA expiry dates that have passed, or are in the near future.

| SPECIAL AUTHORITY FOR     | EXPIRES ON       |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| vancomycin HCL            | November 5, 2017 |
| iron sucrose              | November 5, 2017 |
| pirfenidone               | November 5, 2017 |
| atovaquone-proguanil HCL  | November 5, 2017 |
| secukinumab               | January 1, 2018  |
| sitagliptin +/- metformin | January 1, 2018  |

## Eligibility

Eligibility criteria for Plan W are detailed on the [PharmaCare website](#). If you encounter difficulties submitting claims for clients who believe they should be covered under Plan W but appear not to be, please contact FNHA's Eligibility Unit at 1-855-550-5454 or email [HealthBenefits@fnha.ca](mailto:HealthBenefits@fnha.ca).

## PHARMANET FANOUT PROCESS CHANGES

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As of October 23, 2017, the Ministry of Health has assumed responsibility for issuing all PharmaNet FanOuts.

To ensure that only critical information is being delivered by FanOut, the scope of FanOut messages will be limited to lost or stolen prescription pads and PharmaNet outages.

To report a lost or stolen prescription pad or duplicate prescription pad for FanOut:

- Phone PharmaNet Support Services at 1-844-660-3200
- Provide the following information:
  - Prescriber's name
  - Prescriber's location
  - Prescriber's license number
  - Folio numbers involved
  - Contact Information
- Provide additional information as required

The PharmaNet Support Services phone line is answered during standard work hours (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.); prescribers may leave a voicemail message at any time with the information outlined above. Within one business day, PharmaNet Support Services will issue a FanOut to pharmacies in the relevant geographic area.

A person reporting a lost or stolen prescription pad must be a registrant of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC, the College of Dental Surgeons of BC, the College of Registered Nurses of BC, or the College of Pharmacists of BC.

Critical information about issues other than lost or stolen prescription pads may be reviewed for FanOut by PharmaNet Support Services on a case-by-case basis.

The following issues will not be communicated via FanOut, except in exceptional circumstances:

- Prescription forgeries
- Pharmacy robberies
- Persons impersonating health care providers or insurers seeking personal information
- Multi-doctoring
- Prescribers cancelling prescriptions
- Lost prescriptions
- Tracking missing persons or persons of interest in criminal investigations

## UPDATE PHARMACY ENCRYPTION PROTOCOL

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All pharmacies should ensure that their encryption protocol is up to date and complies with government standard of Transport Layer Security 1.1.

Older Secure Socket Layer (SSL) encryption protocol has become susceptible to breaches and attacks and is no longer sufficient for PharmaNet transactions.

Please work with your software vendor to determine the encryption protocol your pharmacy currently has in place and if it must be updated.

The office of the B.C. Chief Information Officer is monitoring for instances of weaker SSL protocol. If your pharmacy is identified as being noncompliant, the encryption update must be completed within 14 days. To avoid any inconvenience, we encourage all pharmacies to proactively update and ensure conformance with government security standard.

## BENEFITS

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### Limited Coverage Drug Program—Erelzi™ etanercept

Effective **November 14, 2017**, PharmaCare covers the Erelzi™ brand of etanercept through the Special Authority (SA) program for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), ankylosing spondylitis (AS) or juvenile idiopathic arthritis. Patients who have current SA approval for etanercept for these indications are now also eligible for coverage of etanercept biosimilars, including the Erelzi brand. PharmaCare already covers the Brenzys™ brand of etanercept for RA and AS patients. All etanercept prescriptions must be filled with the brand specified by the prescriber.

Coverage is subject to the rules of a patient's PharmaCare plan, including any annual deductible requirements. Active SA approval must be in place before the drug is dispensed.

#### *About Erelzi*

Erelzi is a biosimilar version of etanercept based on Enbrel®. In Canada, Erelzi is approved for use in the treatment of RA, polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis, and AS.

The Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC) recommended that provincial programs reimburse Erelzi for RA, polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis, and AS, if the following criterion and conditions are met:

- Criterion: For use in patients for whom etanercept is considered to be the most appropriate treatment option.
- Conditions: Reimburse in a manner similar to Enbrel.
- The cost of treatment with Erelzi should provide significant cost savings for jurisdictions compared with the cost of treatment with existing etanercept products.

## Erelzi XPOSE® Program

This program provides support services—including self-injection training—for patients prescribed Erelzi. To enroll in the program, both the prescriber and patient must sign a completed XPOSE program enrollment and consent form.

To find out more about the program

- Phone: 1-844-27XPOSE (1-844-279-7673) Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Fax: 1-866-872-5771

## Getting more information

- [PharmaCare's Drug Decision Summary](#) (select drug name from the alphabetical list)
- [Erelzi product monograph](#)
- [Common Drug Review—Review and Recommendation](#)
- Updated [PharmaCare SA criteria and SA Request forms](#)

## PharmaCare Coverage

Erelzi is an eligible benefit under the Limited Coverage Program—by Special Authority only—for Fair PharmaCare and Plans B, C, W, F and, if indicated, Plan G and/or Plan P.

For information on all Special Authority drugs, visit our [Special Authority](#) page.

|                           |   |                      |   |
|---------------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| <b>COVERAGE EFFECTIVE</b> | November 14, 2017   |                      |   |
| <b>DRUG NAME</b>          | etanercept (Erelzi™)  |                      |   |
| <b>INDICATION</b>         | Ankylosing Spondylitis, Polyarticular Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis, Rheumatoid Arthritis |                      |   |
| <b>DIN</b>                | 2462877   | <b>STRENGTH/Form</b> | SC, SOL, 25 mg/0.5 mL Prefilled Syringe |
| <b>DIN</b>                | 2462850   | <b>STRENGTH/Form</b> | SC, SOL 50 mg/mL SensoReady Pen         |
| <b>DIN</b>                | 2462869   | <b>STRENGTH/Form</b> | SC, SOL, 50 mg/mL Prefilled Syringe     |
| <b>PLAN G BENEFIT?</b>    | No  |                      |   |
| <b>PLAN P BENEFIT?</b>    | No  |                      |   |

## Non-Benefits

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

| DIN     | DRUG NAME  |
|---------|--|
| 2434334 | apremilast (Otezla®) 30 mg tablet for Psoriatic Arthritis and Plaque Psoriasis                           |
| 2434318 | apremilast (Otezla®) 10 mg, 20 mg, 30 mg tablet starter kit for Psoriatic Arthritis and Plaque Psoriasis |
| 2460548 | sarilumab (Kevzara™) 200 mg/ml prefilled syringe   |
| 2460521 | sarilumab (Kevzara™) 150 mg/ml prefilled syringe   |
| 2452960 | brivaracetam (Brivlera™) 75 mg tablet  |
| 2452952 | brivaracetam (Brivlera™) 50 mg tablet  |
| 2452944 | brivaracetam (Brivlera™) 25 mg tablet  |
| 2452936 | brivaracetam (Brivlera) 10 mg tablet   |
| 2452979 | brivaracetam (Brivlera) 100 mg tablet  |