

BC PHARMACARE NEWSLETTER

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PROSTHETICS AND ORTHOTICS

2019 Benefits Deadline

The end of the 2019 benefit year is fast approaching and many providers will have patients wishing to obtain supplies or a new prosthesis/orthosis before year-end. In order to process these applications and respond to providers in time to supply patients before the end of the 2019 benefit year, it is important that PharmaCare receive the applications for this benefit year as soon as possible. In previous communication with the Prosthetic and Orthotics Association of BC, PharmaCare asked for these applications to be submitted before November 7, 2019, but due to the absence of an October newsletter, some providers were unaware of this deadline. PharmaCare will review applications received after November 7, 2019, but the sooner they arrive, the more time providers will have to complete the work within this calendar year.

The PharmaCare Newsletter is published by the Pharmaceutical 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.



All applications for the 2019 benefit year should be submitted to Health Insurance BC by fax to 250 405-3590, to acquire a PharmaCare response with respect to the 2019 benefit year. This is particularly important this year as there will not be a Prosthetic and Orthotic Committee meeting on December 26, 2019 or January 2, 2020.

If approval has not been granted prior to the end of the current benefit year or in cases where the products have not been dispensed prior to the end of the 2019 benefit year, patients may require assistance in meeting their new Fair PharmaCare deductible. Patients needing assistance in meeting their deductible for the new benefit year (2020) and who do not have an extended health plan may register for the Monthly Deductible Payment Option (MDPO). The MDPO will assist the family in managing their deductible payment. More information regarding MDPO and registration for the program is available at: www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/increasedassistance.

UPCOMING NEW SAFETY MEASURES FOR LIQUID CODEINE

Effective January 2, 2020, prescriptions for certain codeine-containing liquid preparations will require a Controlled Prescription Program (CPP) duplicate prescription form. As with all CPP drugs, preparations must be stored in a time-delay safe (College of Pharmacists of British Columbia, 2019). This change is a result of recent amendments to the Drug Schedules Regulation under the Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act, to address public safety concerns about prescription abuse and pharmacy robberies.

Pharmacies dispensing codeine-containing liquid preparations do not need to wait until January 2, 2020, to begin using duplicate prescription forms and storing these drugs in their time-delay safe.

For more information or to see the list of affected products, visit <https://bcpharmacists.org/codeine>.

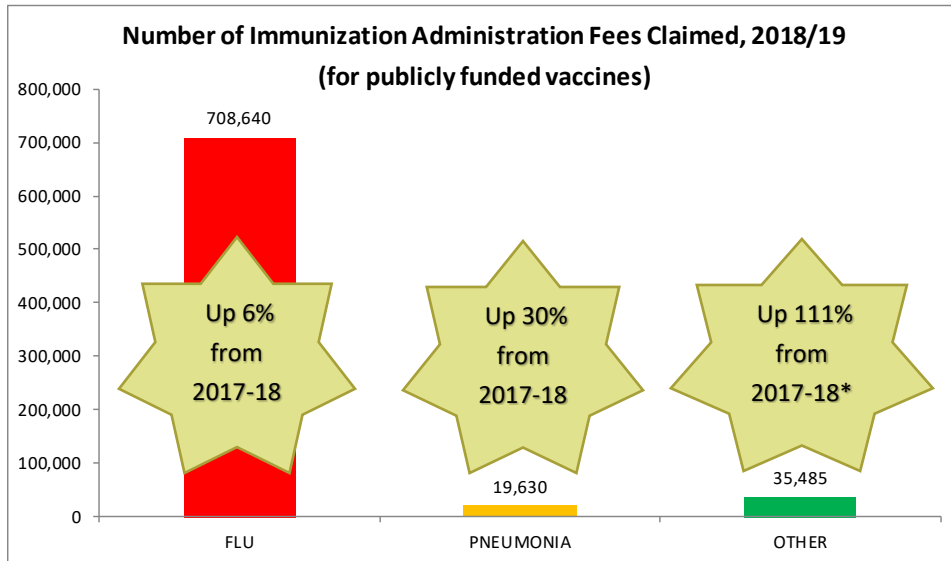
PHARMANET DEACTIVATING IDLE SITES

If you have a Community Health Practice Access to PharmaNet (ComPAP) site or a Medical Practice Access to PharmaNet (MPAP) site that has not submitted a transaction for 90 days or longer, your account is considered dormant and will be deactivated for security reasons. Vendors will be notified of the possible deactivation of inactive sites and may contact you. If your site has not submitted a transaction in over 90 days, notification letters will be faxed to your site in early November 2019. If a fax is undeliverable, a letter will be mailed to the address on file.

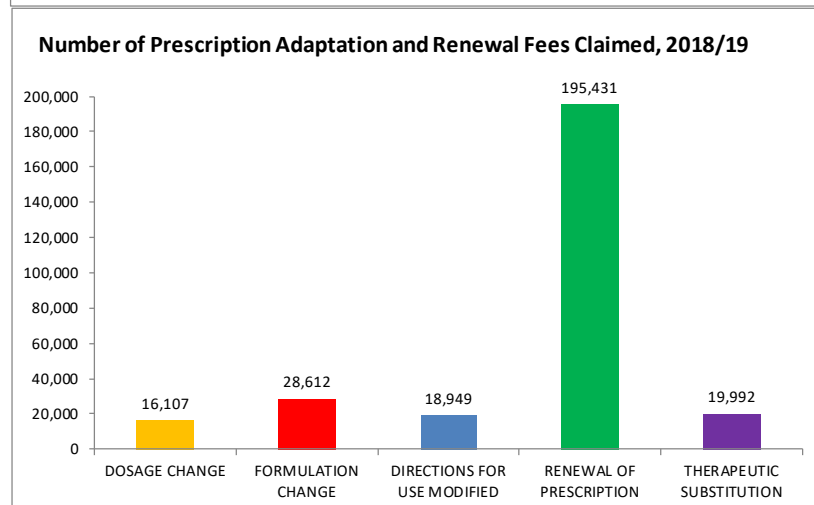
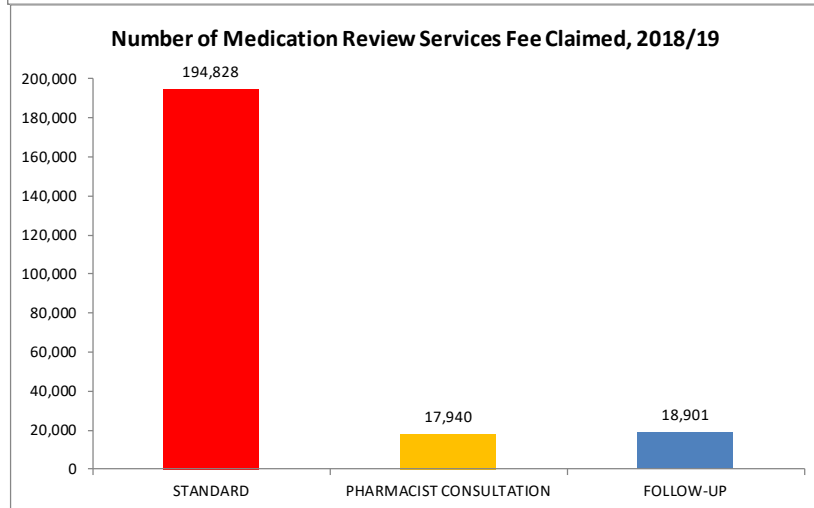
In order to maintain your access to PharmaNet, sign and return the notification fax to Health Insurance BC within 10 days of the date on the fax or letter. Otherwise, no further action is required. If you wish to regain PharmaNet access at a future date, you will need to reapply through the ComPAP process set out on the Ministry of Health website.

CLINICAL SERVICES FEES 2018–19

Clinical services fees charged by B.C. pharmacists in fiscal year 2018–19 demonstrate the volume of services provided and claimed across the province.



*This increase is largely due to a surge in vaccines for measles mumps rubella (13,513 claims this year compared to 1,985 last year).



NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE CHANGES

PharmaCare newsletters are published on an ad hoc basis, whenever it has been necessary to provide information on policy and regulatory changes, operational requirements, drug listings, and other major announcements. Since newsletters are not published on a routine schedule, email notifications are sent to subscribers when a newsletter is posted to the PharmaCare website. Currently, notifications are sent by a government listserv to over 2500 individuals subscribed to our newsletter notification service. Listserv technology is outdated, and all B.C. government listservs will be decommissioned in the coming months.

As such, PharmaCare will be replacing our newsletter listserv by securely transferring the existing subscriber email list to our web content management system. User information will be protected, and no action is required by subscribers regarding the change to the subscription mechanism. When a newsletter is posted, subscribers will still be alerted via email. If you don't receive future newsletter notifications, please check your inbox to ensure notifications are not automatically going to your "junk" or "spam" folder, and ensure that "gov.bc.ca" is listed as a trusted domain in your email settings.

YOUR VOICE: PATIENT INPUT NEEDED FOR DRUG DECISIONS

The feedback and experiences 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 provide input. If you have a patient who is 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>.

DRUG	tafamidis (Vyndaqel)
INDICATION	transthyretin amyloid cardiomyopathy
INPUT WINDOW	October 23–November 20, 2019

DRUG	belimumab (Benlysta)
INDICATION	systemic lupus erythematosus
INPUT WINDOW	October 23–November 20, 2019

DRUG	glycopyrrolate (Cuvposa)
INDICATION	chronic severe drooling in children with neurological conditions
INPUT WINDOW	October 23–November 20, 2019

DRUG	iron isomaltoside (Monoferric)
INDICATION	iron deficiency anemia
INPUT WINDOW	October 23–November 20, 2019

LIMITED COVERAGE DRUGS

The Limited Coverage Criteria have changed for the following product under Fair PharmaCare and Plans B, C, F, and W:

DIN	PRODUCT	STRENGTH AND FORM	EFFECTIVE DATE
02449781	mepolizumab (NUCALA™)	100 mg/mL vial	October 29, 2019