

BC PHARMACARE NEWSLETTER

Edition 26-010: October 2026

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Refills

Your dose of drug information in between sessions

The current edition of [PAD Refills](#) is about emergency contraception for patients taking isotretinoin for acne. Make sure to [subscribe](#) so you don't miss out on news and updates!

The PharmaCare Newsletter team works from the territory of the lək̓ʷəŋən 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 *Sən'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
gov.bc.ca/programs
gov.bc.ca/deviceproviders

2026 flu season vaccination campaign

B.C.'s 2026-27 flu vaccination campaign starts on October 13, 2026.

The following publicly funded flu vaccines are available this year:

- Fluzone (trivalent) multi-dose vial – DIN 02365936
- Fluzone (trivalent) pre-filled syringe – DIN 02365707
- Fluviral (trivalent) – DIN 02420686
- FluMist (trivalent) nasal spray – DIN 02352621
- Fluad (trivalent) – DIN 02362384



The following flu and COVID-19 vaccines are available for private purchase. Use the PIN when recording a claim for a privately purchased vaccine in PharmaNet:

- Flumist (trivalent) nasal spray – PIN 66128578
- Fluzone (trivalent) (pre-filled syringe) – PIN 66128576
- Fluzone (trivalent) multi-dose vial – PIN 66128577
- Fluad (trivalent) – PIN 66124872
- Spikevax – PIN 66128581
- Comirnaty – PIN 66128582
- Nuvaxovid – PIN 66128645

 Visit [Publicly funded vaccines](#) for all publicly funded vaccines and related procedures.



Flu vaccination season is here!

Make sure you have all the information you need.

-  [Quick Reference Guide for B.C. pharmacists: Publicly Funded Vaccines \(PDF, 110KB\) – immunization and AEFI procedures](#) 
-  [Pharmacists and Publicly Funded Vaccines in B.C. guide – how to order supply, report AEFIs, claim fees, and more! Written for B.C. pharmacists](#) 
-  [Publicly funded vaccines – PharmaCare PINs and claim procedures and fees](#) 



Resources

- [Publicly funded vaccines](#)
- [Pharmacists and publicly funded vaccines in B.C. guide](#)
- [Quick Reference Guide for B.C. Pharmacists: Publicly Funded Vaccines \(PDF, 110KB\)](#) (2-page guide)
- [BCCDC Immunization Manual](#)
- [PharmaCare Policy Manual, Section 8.10: Pharmacist Administration of Drugs and Vaccines](#)

Publicly funded RSV vaccine

The Province has launched a new time-limited publicly funded respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunization program. As of September 22, 2026, mResvia® is free for B.C. residents aged:

- 75+ (non-Indigenous)
- 60+ (Indigenous)

 Visit [Publicly funded vaccines](#) for all publicly funded vaccines and related procedures.

To claim the vaccine administration fee, enter **PIN 66128644** in PharmaNet.

For private supply, pharmacies can claim the [Drug administration fee](#).

The new RSV program runs from 2026-27 to 2028-29.

Clients can contact the call centre at [1-833-838-2323](tel:1-833-838-2323) to find out where they can get immunized.

Resources

- [Publicly funded vaccines](#)
- [Pharmacists and publicly funded vaccines in B.C. guide](#)
- [Respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\) vaccine | HealthLink BC](#)
- [BCCDC Immunization Manual](#)
- [Drug administration fee](#)

Retroactive PA witnessing fees paid October 6

As mentioned in the [September 2026 PharmaCare Newsletter \(PDF, 481KB\)](#), the payment for pharmacies who submitted claims for the prescribed alternatives (PA) witnessing fee for PA doses witnessed from June 18, 2025, to March 31, 2026, received retroactive payment for these claims on October 6, 2026.

Pharmacies using Kroll and WinRx must upgrade software this fall for PPM

This fall, B.C. pharmacies using TELUS Kroll or Applied Robotics WinRx software to access PharmaNet must upgrade to versions that are compatible with Provincial Prescription Management (PPM). Pharmacies will be contacted by their software support team to begin the upgrade process.

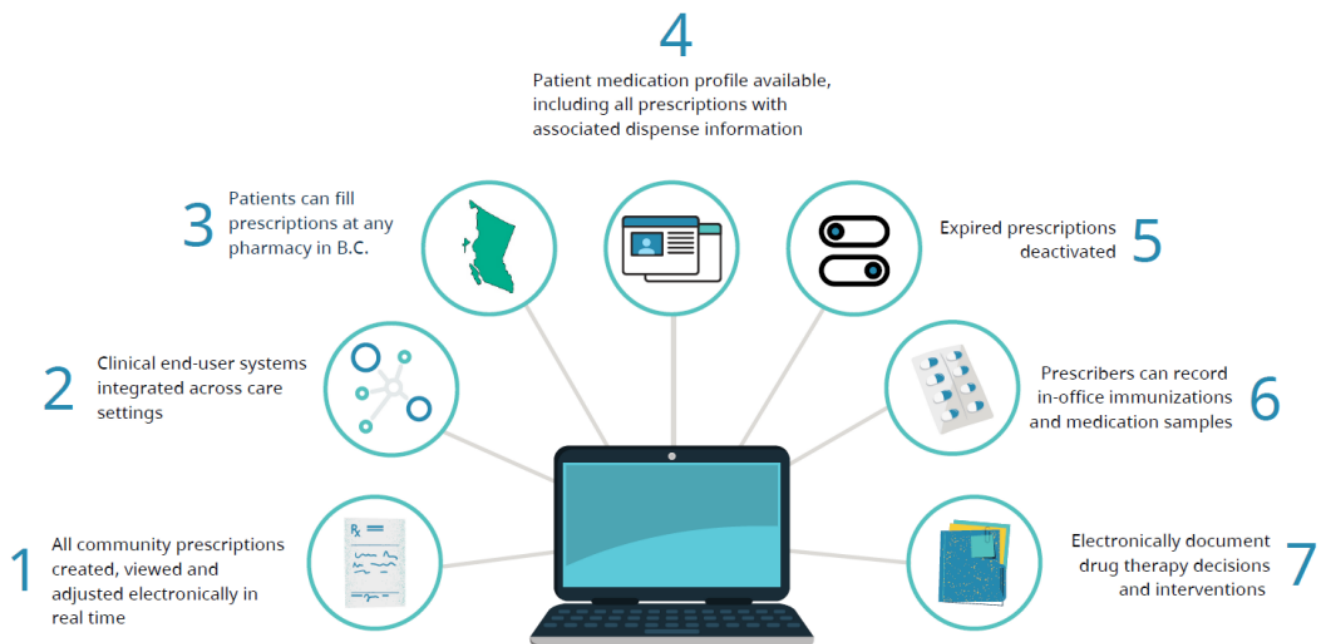
Pharmacies using HealthWatch and Propel Rx software have already upgraded to PPM-compatible versions. All community pharmacies in B.C. are expected to have PPM-compatible software by early 2027.

Upgrading to PPM-compatible software is mandatory for B.C. pharmacies. Once all pharmacies have upgraded, the province's prescribers can begin PPM onboarding.

PPM

PPM is a Ministry of Health initiative that modernizes PharmaNet by introducing electronic prescription authorizations (eRx) to create a more connected and client-centered prescription management system.

PPM improves client access to their medications. Prescriptions can be retrieved from PharmaNet at any pharmacy in the province, ensuring continuity of care during unexpected pharmacy closures. By encouraging digital over paper-based processes, PPM reduces administrative burden.



New pharmacy OAT training program launches October 15

The Pharmacy Opioid Agonist Treatment (P-OAT) Training Program from the University of British Columbia's Continuing Pharmacy Professional Development (UBC CPPD) will launch on **October 15, 2026**.

The new 17-hour training program is free, accredited by the Canadian Council on Continuing Education in Pharmacy (CCCEP), and builds on the existing BC Pharmacy Association (BCPhA) Opioid Agonist Treatment Compliance and Management Program for Pharmacy (OAT-CAMPP) curriculum. The BC Centre on Substance Use (BCCSU) has worked to update educational content to include additional clinical guidance and evidence-informed approaches to care, and an Indigenous Peoples module.

The Ministry of Health, the College of Pharmacists of BC (CPBC), and UBC CPPD have worked together to implement the new training program. All pharmacists who need to complete OAT training requirements and pharmacists interested in expanding their knowledge of OAT are encouraged to register for the new P-OAT program when registration opens on **October 15**.

[CPBC](#) will be sharing further guidance about regulatory requirements and transition timelines.

To support continued access to OAT education during the transition, the BCPhA OAT-CAMPP program will be available until **December 2026**. The Ministry of Health is grateful to BCPhA for delivering high-quality OAT training to more than 6,600 pharmacy professionals since 2018 and for its ongoing contribution to improving care for people receiving OAT in B.C.

Resources

- [UBC CPPD Programs](#)
- [College of Pharmacists of BC](#)
- [Opioid Agonist Treatment Compliance and Management Program for Pharmacy \(OAT-CAMPP\) \(BCPhA\)](#)

Reminder: Dispensing to clients with NIHB coverage

Pharmacists are encouraged to verify that Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) coverage information for Inuit and First Nations clients is recorded correctly in their pharmacy's local software system and be sure to submit claims using the NIHB billing process. Inuit living in B.C. have reported difficulties getting NIHB coverage at the pharmacy counter.

Inuit and First Nations people who receive medication coverage through NIHB are not covered by PharmaCare Plan W. Their PHN will be recorded in the Patient Coordination of Benefits (PATCOB) table in PharmaNet.

When you enter prescriptions for a client with active NIHB coverage, PharmaNet:

- Returns an **E1 – Host Processing Error** response, showing the PharmaCare paid amount as \$0
- Records the dispense in the client's medication history (MEDHIST)

If you encounter issues when entering a prescription for a client covered by NIHB, or the client's PHN is not in the PATCOB table, contact the [PharmaCare Help Desk](#).

Visit [PharmaCare Policy Manual, Section 3.4: Patients – Other Payers](#) for more details on how to serve clients with federal coverage.

Resources

- [PharmaCare Policy Manual, Section 11.1: PharmaCare Help Desk and Medical Practitioner Line](#)
- [PharmaCare Policy Manual, Section 3.4: Patients – Other Payers](#)
- [Non-Insured Health Benefits program for First Nations and Inuit: Pharmacy benefits \(Canada.ca\)](#)

Info sessions: Federal Controlled Substances Regulations

The federal [Controlled Substances Regulations](#) came into force on October 1, 2026, and replaced the Narcotic Control Regulations; Parts G and J of the Food and Drug Regulations; and the Benzodiazepine and Other Targeted Substances Regulations.

Health Canada's Controlled Substances Program will be providing information sessions throughout October on the changes that impact those working in community pharmacies, specifically pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy managers.

Note that these information sessions are focused specifically on the **community pharmacy setting** and will not address hospital or other specialized pharmacy settings at this time.

Visit the College of Pharmacists of BC web page [New Controlled Substances Regulations in effect October 1, 2026](#) to register for an information session and to learn more about how the changes affect B.C. pharmacy professionals.

Resources

- [Controlled Substances Regulations: SOR/2025-242](#) (Health Canada)
- [New Controlled Substances Regulations in effect October 1, 2026](#) (College of Pharmacists of BC)

New appendix lists PharmaCare policy changes by month



The PharmaCare communications team has created a new appendix for the policy manual: [Appendix D—Policy Manual change log](#).

The change log lists important policy changes. Updates are organized chronologically by month. The change log is updated as new PharmaCare policy changes are published in the PharmaCare Newsletter. The changes listed in the change log are summaries of previous updates to the Policy Manual; they are not new.

PharmaCare providers are reminded that they are required to keep up with policy updates. The best way to do this is to [subscribe](#) to and read the PharmaCare Newsletter.

Resources

- [Appendix D—Policy Manual change log](#)
- [PharmaCare Policy Manual \(Unified\)](#)
- [PharmaCare Policy Manual](#)

PharmaCare Spotlight: Publicly funded vaccines

PHARMACARE SPOTLIGHT: PUBLICLY FUNDED VACCINES



Publicly funded vaccines

PharmaCare pays a fee when an authorized pharmacist, and in some cases non-pharmacist, administers a publicly funded vaccine. The fee for administering a publicly funded vaccine (including COVID-19 vaccines) to an eligible B.C. resident is **\$12.10**.

How to claim publicly funded vaccines

- Vaccine administrations must be entered on the day of the vaccination
- Record the lot number for every vaccine administered. For PharmaNet entries, record the lot number in the SIG field

If administered to **eligible patients** for publicly funded vaccines:

- Use the [appropriate PIN](#) in PharmaNet
- Enter the quantity as the fluid volume of the vaccine (e.g. 0.5 mL)
- Do not enter a drug cost or fee
- Do not enter an intervention code

If administered to **patients who are not eligible**:

- Dispense the vaccine ordered from your private supplier
- Enter the product's DIN in PharmaNet
- Charge the patient directly



Visit the publicly funded vaccines web page for the list of publicly funded vaccines and related procedures.



PharmaCare Spotlight: Publicly funded vaccines



Resources

- [Publicly funded vaccines](#)
- [Publicly funded vaccine PINs](#)

Formulary and listing updates

Limited coverage benefits

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

- [glecaprevir and pibrentasvir \(Maviret\)](#)

Drug name	glecaprevir and pibrentasvir (Maviret)		
Date	October 7, 2026		
Indication	Acute and chronic HCV infection in adults and pediatric patients 3 years of age and older		
DINs	02467550 02522470	Strength & form	100 mg/40 mg tablet 50 mg/20 mg granules per sachet
Covered by Plans	SA approval required: Fair PharmaCare, Plan B, Plan C, Plan F and Plan W		
Notes	This listing expands PharmaCare coverage of Maviret to include the new indication of acute hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection. Maviret is already covered for chronic HCV infection as a limited coverage benefit		

Regular benefits

PharmaCare has added the following items to its formulary as regular benefits.

- [silver copper intrauterine contraceptive device \(TCU 380 AG IUD Mini, TCU 380 AG IUD Normal\)](#)

Drug name	silver copper intrauterine contraceptive device (TCU 380 AG IUD Mini, TCU 380 AG IUD Normal)		
Date	September 9, 2026		
Indication	For intrauterine contraception in women of childbearing age		
PINs	66128641 66128642	Strength & form	TCU 380 AG IUD Mini TCU 380 AG IUD Normal
Covered under Plans	Plan NP, Plan C		

Non-benefits

PharmaCare has decided not to cover the following drug for the noted indication.

- [pasireotide \(Signifor® LAR®\)](#)

Drug name	pasireotide (Signifor® LAR®)		
Date	September 23, 2026		
Indication	For the treatment of adult patients with acromegaly for whom surgery is not an option or has not been curative		
DINs	02437260 02437279	Strength & form	40 mg vial for intramuscular injection 60 mg vial for intramuscular injection

Price reductions

Effective November 6, 2026, the prices for the following products will be reduced. Prices include 8% markup.

Drug name	Jubbonti		
Date effective	November 6, 2026		
DIN	Strength & form	Current price per unit	Reduced price per unit
02545411	60 mg/mL pre-filled syringe	\$195.5556	\$188.4492

Drug name	Osenvelt		
Date effective	November 6, 2026		
DIN	Strength & form	Current price per unit	Reduced price per unit
02560895	120 mg/1.7 mL vial	\$336.9600	\$313.3728

Drug name	Stoboclo		
Date effective	November 6, 2026		
DIN	Strength & form	Current price per unit	Reduced price per unit
02560917	60 mg/mL pre-filled syringe	\$210.2760	\$188.4492

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 complete a Your Voice survey.

Visit www.gov.bc.ca/BCyourvoice for more details on Your Voice.

[Your Voice](#) is now accepting input on the following drugs:

Drug or device	Condition	Survey link and dates
etanercept, secukinumab, ixekizumab, and ustekinumab	Ministry-initiated review of biologics for pediatric plaque psoriasis	biologics for pediatric plaque psoriasis October 1 to October 27
sepiapterin (Sephience™)	Hyperphenylalaninemia (HPA) in patients 1 month of age and older with sepiapterin-responsive phenylketonuria (PKU)	sepiapterin (Sephience™) October 1 to October 27
nerandomilast (TBC) IPF	For idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) in adults	nerandomilast (TBC) IPF October 1 to October 27
nerandomilast (TBC) PPF	For progressive pulmonary fibrosis (PPF) in adults	nerandomilast (TBC) PPF October 1 to October 27
orforglipron (TBC)	To reduce excess body weight and maintain weight reduction long term in adults	orforglipron (TBC) October 1 to October 27
ocrelizumab (Ocrevus®)	Relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS) and early primary progressive multiple sclerosis (PPMS) in adults	ocrelizumab (Ocrevus®) October 1 to October 27

Did you know?



In 2024/25 PharmaCare provided \$43.65 million in vaccination/injection fees. Read [PharmaCare Trends 2024-25 \(PDF, 638KB\)](#) for more PharmaCare facts.