



BC PharmaCare Newsletter



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BUPROPION SHORTAGE

Pharmacists may encounter a shortage of bupropion extended release (XL) 150 and 300 mg in the next few weeks. This shortage includes both the generic and brand name (Wellbutrin[®]) products of the XL formulation, in all strengths and from all manufacturers. Updated information on this and other shortages, as well as estimated end dates, can be found on the [Current Drug Shortages List](#).

Please refer to [PharmaCare Drug Shortage Information](#) for more information about drug shortages.

Adaptation Situations

- The College of Pharmacists of BC has authorized pharmacists to adapt existing prescriptions for bupropion XL 300 mg (one-a-day formulation) to bupropion sustained release (SR) 150 mg BID (twice daily), for the same total daily dose in mg. Pharmacists can claim an adaptation fee for this **only while the shortage persists**.
- Coverage for bupropion SR products should adjudicate automatically if a patient has existing Special Authority approval for bupropion XL products. Refer to the [LCA data files](#) for information about PharmaCare coverage of bupropion SR products.

Situations Requiring Physician Input

- For prescriptions of bupropion XL 150 mg, the manufacturer recommends that any changes to the dosage be made in collaboration with the prescribing physician. Please use your professional judgement to ensure that patient care needs are met appropriately. Communicate with the prescriber as needed.

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.

www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarepharmacists | www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacareprescribers | www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacaredeviceproviders

Products Affected

The following is a list of all products affected by the shortage.

DIN	PRODUCT
02275090	Wellbutrin [®] XL 150 MG TAB ER 24H
02275104	Wellbutrin [®] XL 300 MG TAB ER 24H
02382075	Mylan-Bupropion XL 150 MG TAB ER 24H
02382083	Mylan-Bupropion XL 300 MG TAB ER 24H
02439654	Act Bupropion XL 150 MG TAB ER 24H
02439662	Act Bupropion XL 300 MG TAB ER 24H