

Welcome to PharmaCare 101 – How to find out which drugs PharmaCare covers.



The best way to find out if a drug is covered by PharmaCare is to use the Formulary Search, which is available to anyone online. You can find out if a drug is covered, the maximum amount PharmaCare will cover, if prescribers need to request Special Authority coverage, and more.



BC PharmaCare covers:

- Thousands of products
- 12 plans

For coverage, the plan must:


- Cover the **drug**
- Cover the **patient**



PharmaCare covers thousands of products over 12 plans.

To be eligible for coverage, PharmaCare must cover the drug under a plan that the patient is covered under, as some drugs have different coverage depending on the plan.

Drug Coverage Categories

Benefit status	Coverage details
Regular benefit*	Eligible for full reimbursement
Partial benefit*	Eligible for limited reimbursement under the Low Cost Alternative Program or the Reference Drug Program. For details, view PharmaCare 101 - Policies
Limited coverage*	Eligible for reimbursement only in certain medical circumstances. View PharmaCare 101 – Special Authority
Non-benefit	Not eligible for PharmaCare coverage under any circumstances
Expensive drugs for rare diseases (EDRD)	Non-benefits, but some drugs and patients may be eligible for coverage on a case-by-case, last-resort basis 

*Subject to PharmaCare price limits and, if covered under Fair PharmaCare, deductible requirements.

Drugs fall into specific coverage categories.

Regular benefit items are eligible for full reimbursement.

Partial benefits are partially reimbursed through the Low Cost Alternative program and the Reference Drug Program.

We go into more detail about these programs in the PharmaCare 101 – Policies video.

Limited coverage drugs are eligible for reimbursement only in certain medical circumstances, and require special approval by PharmaCare. We go into detail about this in the PharmaCare 101 – Special Authority video.

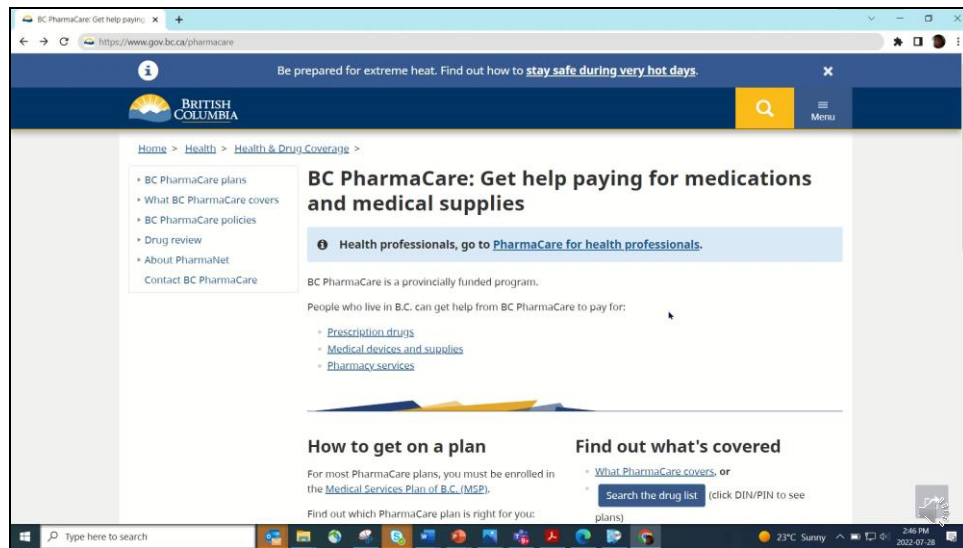
Non-benefit products are not eligible for reimbursement.

Expensive drugs for rare diseases are drugs that treat rare diseases with a very high per-patient cost. They are considered non-benefits, but some drugs and patients may be eligible for coverage on a case-by-case, last-resort basis.

As mentioned on the last slide, some drugs have a different benefit status under different PharmaCare plans. For example, a drug that's a regular benefit under the Palliative Care plan may be a non-benefit – not covered at all – under the Fair PharmaCare plan.



To find out which plans cover your medication, go to gov.bc.ca forward slash PharmaCare.



Click to Search the drug list. This gets you to the PharmaCare formulary search. Let's say you've been prescribed amlodipine besylate. Enter the name in this box. Click Search. Here's a list of amlodipine besylates that PharmaCare covers or has decided not to cover. For this one, PharmaCare will cover up to 14.5 cents per tablet. Click the DIN to see if it is covered by one or more of your PharmaCare plans. This one is covered under six plans.

This version is a non-benefit. That means PharmaCare doesn't cover it. You can also search by plan. For example, this search will show only the amlodipine besylates that covered under the Fair PharmaCare plan.

1 gov.bc.ca/pharmacare

2 Search the drug list

3 DIN/PIN/NPN

A downloadable CSV file with the entire PharmaCare formulary is also available at gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/downloadabledrugfiles

PharmaCare newsletter has updated listings at gov.bc.ca/pharmacarenewsletter

So again, the steps are:

1. Go to gov.bc.ca/pharmacare
2. Click Search the drug list to go to the formulary search
3. Click on the DIN/PIN/NPN for coverage details

You can also download a file of the PharmaCare formulary at gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/downloadabledrugfiles

Note that it can take up to two weeks for a covered drug to show up in the search results. Go to the PharmaCare newsletter at gov.bc.ca/pharmacarenewsletter for up-to-the-minute listing announcements.



Thanks for watching this PharmaCare 101 video on How to find out which drugs are covered. For more videos, visit gov.bc.ca/PharmaCare101