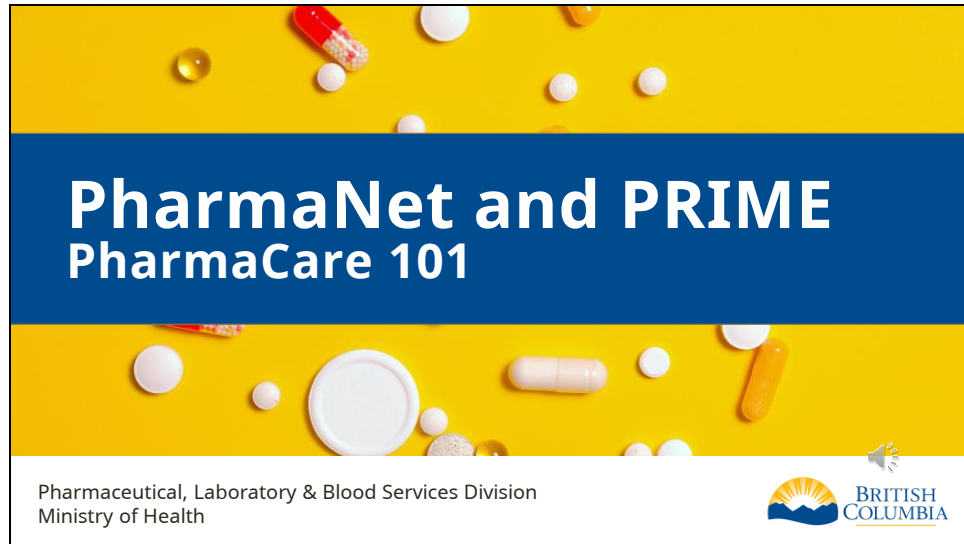


PharmaCare 101 – PharmaNet and PRIME



Welcome to PharmaCare 101 – an intro to PharmaNet and PRIME.

Ad from
1995



PharmaNet network

Records and claims system

- All prescriptions dispensed in B.C. since 1995
- Processes PharmaCare claims and coverage
- Helps identify drug interactions
- Helps prevent duplication and fraud
- Enforces PharmaCare policies, e.g., max days' supply




PharmaNet is a provinciewide network that has linked health professionals to a central data system since 1995. All prescriptions dispensed in a community pharmacy in B.C. are entered in PharmaNet.

PharmaNet is made up of two components:

- * It contains records of all medications dispensed to a patient, as well as records of allergies and clinical conditions, and
- * It is the business and payment system for PharmaCare. Pharmacists submit claims in PharmaNet for medications and services

PharmaNet helps health professionals identify potential drug interactions, accidental prescription duplication, and limits fraud and drug abuse.


PharmaNet is programmed to enforce certain PharmaCare policies, such as frequency of dispensing, maximum price and maximum days supply.



PharmaNet users

- PharmaNet sites
- Health professionals:
 - Independent users (e.g., pharmacists, physicians, NPs)
 - On-behalf-of users (e.g., pharmacy assistants, MOAs, LNPs)
 - Must be 18 or older
- Access levels based on professional needs, to preserve privacy

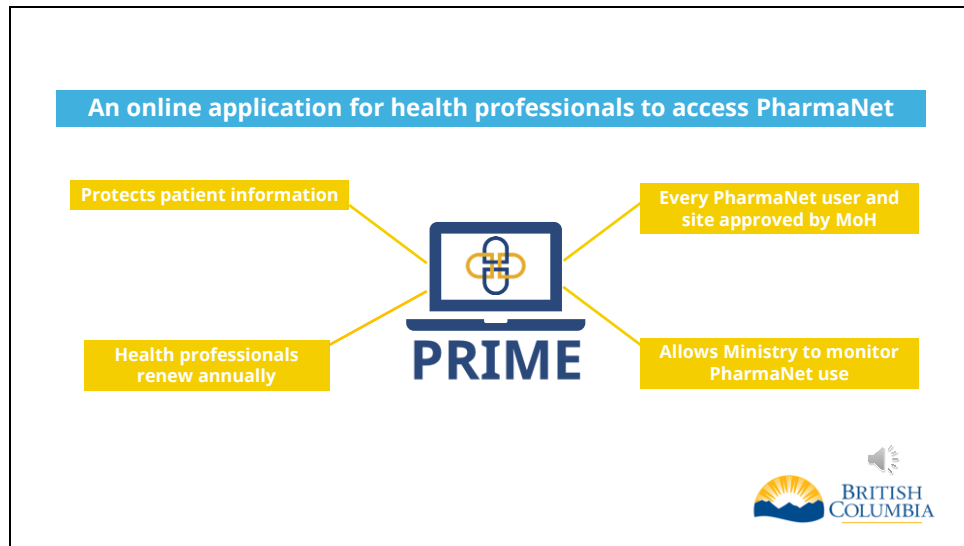
Access to PharmaNet is for patient care only.



PharmaNet is used by College-regulated professionals, such as physicians, pharmacists and nurse practitioners, who are known as independent users of the system. It is also used by people who support independent users, such as pharmacy assistants and licensed practical nurses. They are known as on-behalf-of users. Someone must be at least 18 years old to be eligible for access to PharmaNet.

PharmaNet users are granted different levels of access, depending on their professional needs. This is to safeguard patient privacy. For example, medical device providers can submit and view claims, but they cannot view a patient's medication history. Pharmacists can record prescription details but cannot view financial information such as a patient's Fair PharmaCare deductible.

Access to PharmaNet is only approved to provide patient care. It is not available for academic or other secondary purposes, such as research or monitoring.




Access to PharmaNet is tightly controlled. Every B.C. health professional who needs PharmaNet access to deliver patient care must request access from the Ministry of Health.

To request access, health professionals enrol in PRIME, and organizations register their sites in PRIME

PRIME is an online application. PRIME helps protect patient and health professional information.


Once approved to access PharmaNet, health professionals are assigned a unique global PharmaNet ID code (GPID). This code is linked to every transaction they make in PharmaNet. No one else can enter transactions under their GPID. This allows the Ministry of Health to monitor PharmaNet use and protect patient and provider information.



Assigning Personal Health Numbers

- Unique lifetime identification numbers
- Can be duplicated in error – make sure to search thoroughly before creating a PHN
- PHNs can only be assigned to non-B.C. residents, B.C. residents without MSP or newborns

Try using name variations and reversing month and day of birth when searching PHNs. For more tips, see www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarepolicy



People's records in PharmaNet are often under their Personal Health Numbers, or PHN.

These are assigned to anyone who interacts with the BC health system. PHNs can often be duplicated in error by pharmacists when providing care. Multiple PHNs assigned to one person can place them at risk of an incomplete PharmaNet medication profile, dispensing errors and adverse drug reactions.

PHNs must only be assigned for:

- Non-residents of BC who have not lived in BC or used a BC health service since 1995
- BC residents who do not have BC Medical Services Plan (MSP) coverage
- Newborns, in rare cases

Every reasonable effort must be made to find a person's PHN – make sure to search thoroughly by reversing the person's month and day of birth, or by using name variations if you are having trouble. Other tips for searching are available in the PharmaCare policy manual.

Make sure to call the PharmaNet Help Desk for assistance if a PHN was made by mistake, or you find multiple PHNs assigned to one person.



Protective words

- Patients can add passwords to their PharmaNet records
- Patient must give health care professional password before they can view their records and dispense medication



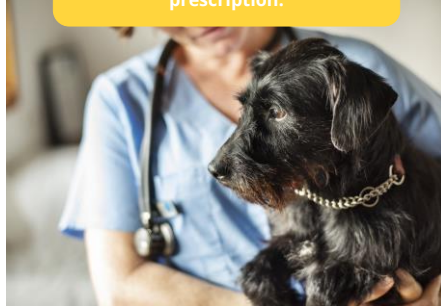
Anyone has the option to apply a password (known as a “protective word”) to their PharmaNet records. Protective words mean that only healthcare professionals who have been authorized by the person can access medication information, dispense prescriptions, perform Drug Use Evaluations (DUE) or view any information about chronic conditions or allergies.

People can attach protective words to their PharmaNet records in-person at a pharmacy.

Prescriptions for pets

- Prescriptions for pets are entered into PharmaNet using the pet owner's PHN
- In PharmaNet, use the prescribing vet's license number and reference ID ('V9' in BC)
 - Keeps prescription distinct from owner's record
- Pharmacists can't adapt pet prescriptions, or provide emergency supplies

Don't assign a PHN to a pet - use the owner's PHN to fill a prescription.



Pet prescriptions can only be filled when written by a veterinarian and using their owner's PHN – do not assign the pet their own PHN. In PharmaNet, make sure to enter the vet's license number and reference ID (in BC this is 'V9'). Otherwise, the prescription will appear as medication for the pet owner. This will affect Drug Utilization Evaluation results for the pet owner, will produce incorrect patient records and result in wrongful PharmaCare coverage.

Pharmacists can't accept prescriptions written by the pet owner's doctor, adapt any pet prescriptions or dispense emergency supplies.



To find out how to...

- Record stock transfers
- Report lost or stolen prescription pads
- Give clients a copy of their PharmaNet profile

... visit www.gov.bc.ca/pharmanet 



In this video, we covered a basic introduction to PharmaNet.

For more information, and to find instructions on stock transfers, reporting lost or stolen prescription pads and how to give clients a copy of their PharmaNet records, visit gov.bc.ca/pharmanet



Thanks for watching this PharmaCare 101 video on PharmaNet and PRIME. To watch more videos, visit gov.bc.ca/PharmaCare101