

Changes to PharmaCare Psychiatric Medication Plan (Plan G) Registration Process

Effective March 1, 2016

Overview

The mainframe system used to register clients for Plan G, Client Patient Information Management (CPIM), is being decommissioned. As of March 1, 2016, health professionals working in Mental Health Substance Use Centres (MHSUC) and the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) will no longer be able to use this system to register clients for Plan G. The Ministry of Health has taken this opportunity to update the Plan G registration process.

What's not changing?

- Benefits available and the criteria for coverage will remain the same.
- The role of MHSUCs/MCFD in processing Plan G applications remains largely unchanged. They remain responsible for:
 - Ensuring application forms are complete;
 - Checking financial eligibility;
 - Assessing patients who may not meet financial eligibility criteria for exceptional coverage; and
 - Notifying patients when their coverage expires.

What is changing?

- Effective **March 1, 2016**, MHSUCs/MCFD will **not** be able to use CPIM to register patients.
- The prescribing physician or nurse practitioner will complete a revised application form and fax that form to the local MHSCU or Health Authority. **The MHSCU completes the form, determines eligibility, and then faxes it to Health Insurance BC for registration.**

- As of **February 18th, 2016**, MHSUCs/MCFD can fax completed and approved Plan G applications to a dedicated fax number at Health Insurance BC: **250 405-3896**. This number is also noted on the revised application form.
- Within 24 hours of receiving a complete application, Health Insurance BC will enter the patient's Plan G coverage into PharmaNet.
- The [Application for PharmaCare Plan G Psychiatric Medication Coverage form \(HLTH 3497\)](#) has also been updated to reflect these changes. It now:
 - Corresponds with the *Pharmaceutical Services Act's* Drug Plans Regulation
 - Reflects the ability of Nurse Practitioners to provide clinical endorsement of a patient's application
 - Contains **mandatory fields** that must be completed before HIBC can process the application
 - Requests the MHSUC/MCFD **Site Location ID**. This number corresponds with the site's former CPIM location code. If you do not know your code, please contact your MHSUC/MCFD administrator.

Plan G prescribers have been notified of these changes and have received a copy of the revised form. In order to ensure that coverage for vulnerable patients is maintained, HIBC has been instructed to accept the original Plan G application forms for a short transition period.

Where can I get more information?

- For more information about these changes, health care providers should contact
 - Their MHSUC/MCFD administrator
 - **Health Insurance BC**
From the Lower Mainland, call 604-683-7151
From the rest of B.C., call toll-free 1-800-663-7100
- Customer Service Representatives are available:
Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (except statutory holidays)
Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (except statutory holidays)

Note: Clients may contact Health Insurance BC directly about their coverage status at the phone numbers above.