

BC PharmaCare

Special Authority

PharmaCare covers some drugs and medical devices only in specific medical circumstances. Your prescriber may request Special Authority coverage for you. They submit a request form to PharmaCare showing your medical need.

PharmaCare must approve the request before you buy the drug or device for you to get Special Authority coverage. PharmaCare cannot cover it retroactively.

See the list of Special Authority drugs and devices at www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarespecialauthority

Special Authority coverage

If the request is approved, you won't pay anything if you are on a 100% coverage plan (e.g., Plan C, Plan W, Plan G). If your only coverage plan is Fair PharmaCare, and you have not yet met your annual deductible and family maximum, you may be charged some or all of the dispensing fee and drug cost.

Sometimes private insurers need proof of Special Authority approval to reimburse your drug costs. Call us at a number below to request proof.

Coverage can be for a limited time (e.g., 6 months) or indefinite. If coverage is for a limited time, your prescriber may submit another request before your coverage ends.

How long it takes for a request to be approved

Some requests are approved immediately. Others can take 10 days or longer. Coverage begins as soon as the request is approved and entered in the system.

You can check the status of your Special Authority request at www.gov.bc.ca/healthgateway

You can also ask your prescriber or a pharmacist to look up the status of the request, or call us.

If your prescriber's request was not approved

Not all requests are approved. This may be because you do not meet the criteria or because PharmaCare needs more information from your prescriber. Discuss the decision with your prescriber.

Questions?

Call us Monday to Friday 8 am – 8 pm and Saturday 8 am – 4pm

- from the Lower Mainland: 604 683-7151
- from the rest of B.C., toll-free: 1 800 663-7100