

# BC PHARMACARE NEWSLETTER

Edition 20-008

May 1, 2020



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## SUBLOCADE™ LISTING

Effective April 30, 2020, Sublocade™, a subcutaneous-injection, long-acting formulation of buprenorphine, is a limited coverage PharmaCare benefit (see [table on page 3](#)).

Sublocade must be administered by a prescriber who has completed the manufacturer’s training course. As the formulation carries significant risks to the patient if not administered correctly, Sublocade must never be dispensed directly to a patient. Pharmacies interested in dispensing Sublocade are encouraged to have at least one staff pharmacist attend an [upcoming information webinar](#) hosted by the British Columbia Pharmacy Association.

Sublocade is ordered directly from the manufacturer, Indivior. Pharmacies must set up accounts with Indivior before placing an order.

The PharmaCare Newsletter is published by the Pharmaceutical Services Division to provide information to British Columbia’s health care providers.

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](http://www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacarepharmacists) | [www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacareprescribers](http://www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacareprescribers) | [www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacaredeviceproviders](http://www.gov.bc.ca/pharmacaredeviceproviders)

## TEMPORARY ADDITIONS TO PLAN W PHARMACIST-INITIATED TREATMENT LIST

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To reduce the number of physician visits during the COVID-19 pandemic, pharmacists may temporarily dispense fever and pain treatments in advance of symptom onset for Plan W clients. This includes benefit acetaminophen, ibuprofen, naproxen and acetylsalicylic acid products for both pediatric and youth/adult indications.

As with all [pharmacist-initiated over-the-counter treatments that are benefits under Plan W](#), claims should be entered with the pharmacist's College ID in the prescriber ID field. Maximum dispenses apply, as noted below. Claim amounts in excess of noted maximums will be subject to audit and recovery. Please see [PharmaCare Newsletter 17-010](#) for documentation requirements.

The following products are included:

### Youth/adult acetaminophen and NSAID products

- Tablets/capsules: acetaminophen, acetylsalicylic acid (ASA), ibuprofen, or naproxen (max 100 tablet pack size/client/year)
- Suppositories: acetaminophen, or ASA (max. 1 standard pack size/client/year)

### Pediatric products (max 1 standard pack size/client/fill)

- Tablets/capsules: acetaminophen
- Liquid: acetaminophen, or ibuprofen
- Suppositories: acetaminophen

## COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR PHARMACIES WEBSITE

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PharmaCare has launched a [website](#) containing COVID-19 related information that is relevant to pharmacists. On this page, pharmacists can find resources for COVID-19 testing (if showing any symptoms), current dispensing practices in B.C., and answers to common pharmacy procedure questions at this time.

Additionally, the Information for Pharmacies web page has an [information sheet](#) that may be printed and posted or printed and provided directly to pharmacy clients. This information sheet provides an overview of what dispensing fees cover, the benefits of Fair PharmaCare, and options for additional Fair PharmaCare assistance for those who have lost income.

New updates to processes and policies will still be communicated in future PharmaCare Newsletters, however the website will act as a centralized location to access the aggregate information. Note the website will not show updates to drug benefits or other information not related to pharmaceutical practices affected by COVID-19—these will continue to be reported in each newsletter.

## DISPENSING POLICY REMINDER

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As stated in [PharmaCare Newsletter 20-005](#) (PDF), PharmaCare policy asks pharmacists to dispense fills up to the maximum days' (90 days) supply as indicated on the prescription where possible, unless on-hand supply dictates that the pharmacy fill a lesser amount (30 days).

Due to a surge in demand related to COVID-19, drug wholesalers started to implement allocation strategies in March across Canada. Following these early initiatives to protect the drug supply chain, the supply is now normalizing, such that distribution allocations are easing. Pharmacists with adequate on-hand supplies should not be apprehensive about filling the maximum 90 days.

## ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPIES TO BE ADDED INTO PHARMANET

Effective May 4, 2020 the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDs (BC-CfE) will begin recording antiretroviral (ARV) therapies in PharmaNet. This decision was made with the utmost consideration for patient privacy, with feedback from health care providers and advocacy groups that inclusion of ARVs in PharmaNet would provide greater safety to patients than harm. The PharmaNet system has strict access controls, and Ministry of Health expects all health care professionals that access the system to honour their profession obligation to patient confidentiality.

There are no changes to the PharmaCare benefit status for HIV/AIDs medications. Coverage will remain through existing processes at BC-CfE.

## LIMITED COVERAGE DRUGS

The following product has been added as a Limited Coverage benefit under Fair PharmaCare and PharmaCare Plans C, G and W:

<b>COVERAGE EFFECTIVE</b>	April 30, 2020		
<b>DRUG NAME</b>	buprenorphine (Sublocade™)		
<b>INDICATION</b>	Opioid use disorder		
<b>DIN</b>	02483084	<b>STRENGTH AND FORM</b>	100 mg/0.5 mL subcutaneous injection
	02483092		300 mg/1.5 mL subcutaneous injection
<b>PLAN G BENEFIT</b>	Yes	<b>PLAN P BENEFIT</b>	No

## NON-BENEFITS

The following products have been reviewed and will not be listed as PharmaCare benefits for the indications specified:

PRODUCT	DECISION DATE	STRENGTH/FORM	INDICATION
omalizumab (Xolair®)	April 28, 2020	150 mg vial/sterile powder for reconstitution	Severe persistent asthma
reslizumab (Cinqair™)		10 mg/mL vial/concentrate solution for intravenous infusion	Severe eosinophilic asthma.