

## **PHARMACARE**

Pharmacare is the provincial drug program that helps residents of British Columbia to pay for their prescription medications and medical supplies. Not all prescription drugs and medical supplies are covered under Pharmacare, only those listed as 'benefits'. Pharmacare is divided into several different plans, but most residents of BC belong to either the Universal Plan, providing coverage for residents under age 65 and registered with the Medical Services Plan of BC, or the Seniors Plan, for provincial residents over age 65.

**Mailing address:** Pharmacare  
Ministry of Health and Ministry Responsible  
for Seniors  
PO Box 9655 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W-9P2

**Telephone Enquiries:** (604) 682-6849 in Vancouver  
1-800-554-0250 outside Vancouver

### **Coverage:**

Under the **Universal Plan**, coverage is based on total eligible expenses of a family instead of an individual. If your family's expenses for eligible drugs and supplies reaches \$800 in any calendar year (January 01 to December 31), then Pharmacare will cover 70% of further expenses for the rest of that year. If your family's out-of-pocket eligible expenses then reach \$2000, Pharmacare will cover 100% of further eligible expenses for the rest of that year.

The **Seniors Plan** applies to residents of BC who are 65 years and older. If you are registered with the Medical Services Plan, you will automatically receive a gold Carecard a few weeks before your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. This will entitle you to pay only the dispensing fee for eligible drugs covered under Pharmacare, instead of both the dispensing fee and the cost of the drug itself. Once you have paid \$200 in dispensing fees in any given year, Pharmacare will pay for 100% of eligible drug costs for the rest of the year. If you are not registered with the Medical Services Plan, contact them at 683-7151.

**Pharmacare benefits include:**

- Eligible drugs prescribed by a physician, surgeon, dentist, midwife, or podiatrist
- Insulin, needles, and syringes for diabetics
- Blood glucose monitoring strips when medically necessary
- Certain ostomy supplies
- Certain permanent prosthetic appliances and children's orthotic devices (braces)

Consideration may be given for coverage of non-benefit medications in cases of medical emergency. Have your physician submit a Special Authority Request Form if you would like to apply.