

# Access to PharmaNet Patient Information Sheet

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PharmaNet is a secure computer network linking all community pharmacies throughout the province, and has been in place since 1995. PharmaNet contains up-to-date information about all prescriptions dispensed to you anywhere in BC. Pharmacists use PharmaNet to monitor your drug therapy and prevent potentially harmful medication interactions, unintended prescription duplications, and drug fraud and abuse.

Access to PharmaNet data is available to authorized health professionals and authorized staff working in a hospital or a designated mental health facility, as a tool to assist with treatment and care of patients. PharmaNet is managed by the Ministry of Health with input from the College of Pharmacists of BC and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC.

## PharmaNet Increases Your Safety

Each year, thousands of British Columbians are hospitalized as a result of negative reactions to medication. One out of every four seniors admitted to a hospital in BC is admitted because of an adverse medication interaction, prescription duplication or misuse of prescription drugs. Often, patients are not able to provide their doctors with complete and detailed information about the medications they are taking. With PharmaNet, authorized health professionals will have at their fingertips the information they need to make important decisions about the best treatment.

## PharmaNet Protects Your Privacy

PharmaNet complies with provincial laws that protect individual privacy. Rules for access to PharmaNet data are laid out in legislation, and government and professional regulatory bodies have established strict conditions for access. Information obtained from PharmaNet must be treated with the same high level of privacy protection as any other health record.

You can further limit access to your information by asking your pharmacist to attach a keyword to your file. With the keyword in place, only authorized health professionals with whom you share the keyword can access your records. The use of a patient keyword may delay your care should you be unable to divulge the keyword. However, to ensure your safety, hospital/DMHF physicians can request that your keyword be removed if you need urgent medical care and are unable to remember or communicate your keyword.

You can establish or change your keyword at any time at any community pharmacy. On request, PharmaCare HelpDesk staff can remove your keyword if you have forgotten it but they cannot see or create keywords.

You are entitled to request that the hospital or designated mental health facility provide a report of all accesses to your PharmaNet profile made by the facility during your visit. Through any community pharmacy, you may also request a copy of your PharmaNet medication profile as well as a full record of all accesses to your PharmaNet file.

For more information, from Vancouver call 604-683-7151 or, from the rest of B.C., call toll-free 1-800-663-7100. Customer Service Representatives are available Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.