**NOTICE OF PHARMACARE DRUG CHANGE THAT MAY IMPACT YOUR COVERAGE**

Your drug plan includes a PharmaCare Tie-in. This means that BC Pharmacare must approve coverage of a drug before your plan will cover it (a number of limited exceptions apply). If you or your dependents are taking one of the following drugs, BC Pharmacare is making significant changes that may impact you.

**Effective April 1, 2015** BC Pharmacare will only cover one brand of the following generic drugs:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * ACCEL brand of Alendronate\* * ACCEL brand of Celecoxib\* * RANBAXY brand of Escitalopram * ACCEL brand of Fluoxetine | * ACCEL brand of Quetiapine * ACCEL brand of Topiramate * SEPTA brand of Zolmitriptan oral dissolve tablets |

\* Continues to require PharmaCare Special Authority approval

**How does this impact your coverage of these drugs?**

Currently, multiple generic versions of these drugs are eligible for coverage by BC PharmaCare and are therefore covered under your private drug plan. As of April 1, 2015 however, all generic brands of these drugs **except** those listed above will be ineligible for coverage by BC PharmaCare and denied reimbursement by your drug plan. If you claim one of these medications after April 1 and it is not covered, your pharmacy is likely not dispensing the covered brand.

In order to receive reimbursement for one of the generic drugs above, your pharmacist must fill your prescription with the covered brand.

**How do I ensure continued coverage?**

Before filling your prescription, ensure the pharmacy carries the generic brand covered by BC Pharmacare and request that it be dispensed. You may find that you are already receiving the covered generic brand.

If your pharmacy dispenses the BC Pharmacare-covered generic brand of your medication and the claim is still denied, have your pharmacist call Pacific Blue Cross to resolve the issue.

**Does this mean I need a new prescription?**

No. The prescription drug you are taking remains the same; the only difference is the drug company manufacturing the generic drug. Generally there are no issues that result from switching generic brands. In fact, your pharmacy may have dispensed different generic versions when filling your prescription previously. In the unlikely event you have a medical issue (ie. you are allergic to or have some contraindication with non-medicinal ingredients in the covered drug), see your doctor immediately.

**Will there be future changes?**

PharmaCare’s list of covered drugs changes often. For up-to-date coverage status of your medications, please refer to the Drug Look Up function in CARESnet ([www.pac.bluecross.ca](http://www.pac.bluecross.ca)) or visit PharmaCare’s Formulary Search page <https://pcbl.hlth.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/benefitslookup/>.  
  
If you have any questions, please call Pacific Blue Cross at 604 419-2600 or 1-888-275-4672 (toll-free) and a Customer Service Representative will be able to transfer you to **Pharmacy Services** if they are not able to assist you.

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