



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness

## FACT SHEET

# PharmaCare Transition for First Nations in BC

**The transition to PharmaCare on October 1, 2017  
is a major milestone in the overall transformation of First Nations health services in BC.  
It is part of a much larger journey to improve health services and bring  
decision-making closer to home, into the hands of First Nations.**

### WHAT THIS MEANS FOR HEALTH BENEFITS CLIENTS

- Everyone will continue to get the medications they need.
- This transition will increase ease of access to benefits and services.
- Reduced steps for prescriptions approvals.
- Reduced confusion for clients who often have to navigate both federal and provincial services.

Once the transition is complete, we'll be better positioned to transform benefits to reflect the cultures and perspectives of BC First Nations.

### DO I NEED TO DO ANYTHING TO GET READY FOR OCTOBER 1ST?

Your status card and your BC Services Card (or CareCard) will be all that you need to access your drug benefits under the PharmaCare program. If you do not already have a BC Services Card (or CareCard), you will need to obtain one before you can receive benefits through PharmaCare.

*If you are travelling outside of BC, make sure you plan ahead to ensure you have enough medication for your trip.*

If you have a health condition supported by a provincial agency (BC Cancer Agency, BC Renal Agency, BC Transplant, or BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS), please speak to your doctor or the agency to ensure you are enrolled. These agencies provide prescription drugs for specific conditions. While you enroll, a six-month transition period is in place to ensure you continue to receive the medications you need.

### PHARMACARE PLAN W HIGHLIGHTS

"Plan W" has been set up in the PharmaCare system for FNHA clients.

- ✓ This is a fully paid plan.
- ✓ This plan will be the first payer of prescription drug benefits.
- ✓ No income testing.
- ✓ No new forms to fill out.
- ✓ No deductible.

## MANDATE

This work has been guided by the mandate outlined for FNHA in the Consensus Paper and Resolution (2011). The Consensus Paper was adopted by resolution of the First Nations Health Council Chiefs in Assembly at Gathering Wisdom for a Shared Journey in 2011. References to Health Benefits within the paper include:

- Directive #3: Improve and revitalize the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program (p.10).
- Setting Priorities for the FNHA: Renovation and improvements to the Non-Insured Health benefits Program (p. 22).

## QUESTIONS ON THE TRANSITION?

We encourage you to direct any questions about how the PharmaCare transition will affect you, your family or friends to our internal Health Benefits Support at 1.855.550.5454 or [HealthBenefits@fnha.ca](mailto:HealthBenefits@fnha.ca)

Find out more on the transition, including frequently asked questions online here: [www.fnha.ca/pharmacare](http://www.fnha.ca/pharmacare)

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

FNHA has been hosting information sessions for community members. Please view our FAQ pages here: <http://www.fnha.ca/benefits/pharmacare-transition/client-faqs>

We encourage everyone to join our upcoming webinar, find out more here: <http://learningcircle.ubc.ca/about/session-registration-form/>