



BRITISH COLUMBIA
CENTRE *for* EXCELLENCE
in HIV/AIDS

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Dear Healthcare Provider:

RE: Repeat fill authorization permitted on BC-CfE antiretroviral (ARV) prescriptions for the treatment of HIV infection

The BC-CfE Drug Treatment Program provides ARVs at no charge to qualifying individuals in the province of BC, on behalf of the BC Ministry of Health's Pharmacare Program.

To facilitate the ARV prescription refill process for prescribers and for stable participants, "repeats" are now permitted on BC-CfE ARV prescriptions *for the treatment of HIV infection*.

How can a prescriber authorize "repeats" on ARV prescriptions?

- The prescriber should document on the ARV prescription the days' supply of medication and the number of repeats they wish to authorize, up to a maximum of 1 year total supply (e.g. 90 day supply; Repeat x 3). The medication quantity and number of repeats should align for all ARV medications on the prescription form.
- Please note that prescriptions are valid for one year from the date written, in accordance with the bylaws of the College of Pharmacists of BC. If a new dated prescription is presented or a change in medication is prescribed, repeat authorizations remaining on the previous prescription are nullified.

Standard BC-CfE ARV Prescription Quantities and Drug Treatment Program Enrolment

- For persons enrolled in the BC-CfE Drug Treatment Program, who are starting, restarting or changing medications, the initial fill quantity is usually a 30-day supply.
- Prescription fills for stable clients, on a consistent regimen with suppressed viral load and good tolerability, can receive a 90-day refill supply.
- Please note, the pharmacy may modify the dispensed quantity to align with standard program quantities as described above, when appropriate. You may be contacted by the pharmacy if a safety issue (e.g. drug-drug interaction, virologic rebound, treatment non-adherence) is identified.
- If there is a greater than 6 month lapse beyond the expected refill date, submission of a new BC-CfE prescription request form will be required before dispensing may resume.



How you want to be treated.

BC-CfE Pre-Printed ARV Prescription Refill Forms

- In order to support continuity of care, the HIV Drug Treatment Program will mail a pre-printed ARV prescription refill form approximately 4-6 weeks prior to the expected refill date, when there are no repeats remaining on the prescription. The pre-printed form is provided for prescriber convenience, and any legal prescription format may be used to order ARV medications. Prescribers who do not wish to receive pre-printed refill forms can inform the BC-CfE Drug Treatment Program office at 604-806-8515.

Please note repeat authorization is not available at this time for prescriptions that include non-ARV medications dispensed through the BC-CfE, or for HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), and a new signed and dated prescription is required each time these medications are dispensed.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the BC-CfE Drug Treatment Program at 604-806-8515.

Sincerely,



Val Montessori, MD, FRCPC
Co-Chair, Committee for Drug Evaluation and Therapy
BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS



Julio S.G. Montaner, OC, OBC, MD
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