



## **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET for BC-CfE DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

**This sheet is to be provided to the participant or his/her/their guardian at the time of Drug Treatment Program enrollment**

### **What is the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (the “BC-CfE”)?**

The BC-CfE is a provincial treatment and research program located at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver, British Columbia. Our mandate is to improve the health of people living with HIV (“PLWH”) and those at risk of acquiring HIV, by advancing and promoting the most effective programs for treatment and prevention of HIV, and related conditions.

### **What is the BC-CfE Drug Treatment Program?**

The BC-CfE's Drug Treatment Program provides treatment and prevention medication for HIV and select related conditions, at no charge, to all medically eligible BC residents either living with HIV, or at elevated risk of HIV acquisition, based on the Committee for Drug Evaluation and Therapy (CDET) guidelines. The Program also provides medications for specific indicator diseases associated with advanced HIV, as well as medications for related conditions that impact participants of the Program, such as doxycycline for the prevention of bacterial sexually transmitted infections (“b-STIs”).

### **For these purposes, the BC-CfE:**

- reviews and authorizes all prescriptions for HIV antiretroviral treatment, HIV prevention medication, and other medications provided through the Program;
- follows up with your healthcare provider if there are any questions about your prescription(s);
- creates and maintains a confidential health record for every participant, including lab test results, prescriptions for drugs provided through the Program, and other relevant health information in order to provide the services described above;
- collects, monitors, and retains all HIV plasma viral load tests done in BC (a standard test done after an HIV diagnosis); and
- notifies your prescriber after a gap in a prescription fill occurs, and, in the event of an extended lapse in HIV medication for PLWH, refers you to public health within the RETAIN program ([bccfe.ca/retain/](http://bccfe.ca/retain/)).

All activities within the Program are administered by the BC-CfE on behalf of the PharmaCare program of the BC Ministry of Health.

### **How does this work?**

Your prescriber will complete the Drug Treatment Program Enrolment and Prescription Request forms for your medication and send them to the BC-CfE (you may ask your prescriber for copies of the completed forms). Once received, the details on the forms are recorded in our secure database as part of your health record. A BC-CfE clinician then reviews the information from the forms, along with relevant lab test results and other relevant details of your medical history. This review confirms that you are eligible for medication through the Program and ensures that the medication prescribed for you meets current guidelines.





## What information does the BC-CfE collect?

We collect your personal information to enroll you in the Program and meet legal prescription requirements. In addition to your full legal name, home address, sex, gender, race/ethnicity, date of birth, and BC Personal Health Number, we also collect initial bloodwork results to confirm your eligibility for coverage by PharmaCare. For PLWH, we collect results for all plasma HIV-1 viral load tests conducted in BC to ensure participants receive the right treatment, and to monitor the overall safety and effectiveness of that treatment.

As a new or existing Program participant, whenever you are prescribed a new medication or regimen (either for HIV treatment, or prevention of HIV and/or a related condition) we collect relevant information about your health history, lab test results, current medications, and any side effects from medications you have previously taken. We require this information to verify your eligibility and dispense medication, ensure that the prescribed medications will be safe and effective for you, and monitor the overall safety and effectiveness of the medications. Once you are enrolled in the Program, we record updates to your personal information and changes to your medication in our secure database.

The collection of personal information for these purposes is authorized by section 26(c) of B.C.'s *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* ("FIPPA").

## How does the BC-CfE use and disclose my personal information?

Your personal information is used by, and disclosed to health care professionals who are involved in your care and treatment. For instance, personal information that is needed to safely fill your prescription is shared with your prescriber or pharmacy. To support your continued engagement in care, we may notify your prescriber if program medication has not been dispensed for an extended period of time. Furthermore, for existing participants of the Program, we may also share personal health information with your prescriber about related conditions, such as hepatitis B or C, so that they can manage them in a manner they consider appropriate.

For PLWH, in the case of an extended lapse in HIV medication, we may contact your local health authority so that they can provide you with any support you may need to continue with your medication. Note that you are under no obligation to accept this offer of support. More information is available under the RETAIN section of the BC-CfE website ([bccfe.ca/retain/](http://bccfe.ca/retain/)).

Additionally, a limited number of BC-CfE staff may access your personal information as needed to support the operations of the Program. Personal Information may also be used and disclosed as required by law, such as for PharmaCare coverage or other legal reporting purposes. Any use and disclosure of your personal information for the purposes described is authorized under sections 32 and 33 of FIPPA.

## How does the BC-CfE protect my privacy and make sure my personal information is secure?

Your personal information is stored in a secure database, to which access is limited, logged, and monitored. Before it is used for secondary purposes like health research, drug safety analysis, program reporting, and ongoing monitoring and evaluation of program safety and effectiveness, the BC-CfE de-identifies your personal information at the earliest stage.

## Questions?

If you have questions about the Drug Treatment Program, please contact **604-806-8515**. If you have any questions about how the BC-CfE safeguards your personal information, or how your personal information is collected, used, or disclosed please email us at [privacy@bccfe.ca](mailto:privacy@bccfe.ca).

