



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

**This sheet is to be provided to the participant or their guardian at the time of  
Drug Treatment Program enrolment**

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

The BC-CfE is a treatment and research program located at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. Our mandate is to improve the health of people living with HIV/AIDS (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 HIV antiretroviral treatment and prevention medication, at no charge, to all medically eligible BC residents living with HIV and persons at high risk of HIV acquisition. The Program also provides certain medications for specific indicator diseases associated with advanced HIV, and certain conditions affecting PLWH and those at risk of acquiring HIV, such as Doxycycline for the prevention of bacterial sexually transmitted infections (“b-STIs”). The BC-CfE administers the Program on behalf of the BC Ministry of Health's PharmaCare program.

### For this purpose, the BC-CfE:

- reviews and authorizes all prescriptions for HIV medications and other medications provided through the Program;
- follows up with your healthcare provider if there are any questions about your prescriptions;
- 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 to provide the services described above;
- collects and monitors 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/)). The BC-CfE may also communicate with your prescriber about related conditions (e.g., hepatitis B or C, b-STIs).

### How does this work?

Your prescriber will complete Program Enrolment and Prescription forms for your treatment and/or prevention medication. The forms are sent to the BC-CfE and the information is entered as part of your health record in our secure database. You may ask your prescriber for a copy of the completed forms.

A BC-CfE clinician reviews the Program application forms, including a review of relevant lab test results, medication, and other health history. Their review ensures you qualify for medications through the Drug Treatment Program and the medication prescribed for you meets current guidelines.



### **What information Does the BC-CfE collect?**

We will collect personal identifying information such as your full legal name, home address, sex and gender, date of birth, and BC Personal Health Number to enroll you in the Program and fulfill legal prescription requirements. We also collect your initial bloodwork to confirm you are eligible for coverage by PharmaCare.

Once your prescriber writes your first prescription and you enroll in the Program, we will collect relevant information about your health history, health lab test results, current medications and any side effects from medications you've taken. We require this information to dispense medication and check that the prescribed medications will be safe and effective for you. For PLWH, we also collect all plasma HIV-1 viral load test results done in BC to ensure clients are started on the right treatment at the right time

Your health record in our secure database is updated, as necessary, and whenever there is a change in your medication. As a public body subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* ("FIPPA"), the information mentioned above is collected in accordance with section 26(c).

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

Your personal health information is only disclosed to healthcare professionals who are involved in your care and treatment, to make sure the medication prescribed for you is safe and effective. For this purpose, we may send some of your health information to your prescriber or to a pharmacy to fill your prescription. It may be used for other legal requirements such as for PharmaCare coverage or legal reporting purposes.

Your prescriber may receive a reminder or notification, if program medication has not been dispensed for an extended period of time. For PLWH, in the event of an extended lapse in HIV medication, contact may be made with your local health authority in an attempt to provide any support you may require to continue with your medication. Note, that you are under no obligation to accept this offer of support. For more information, please refer to RETAIN section of our website ([bccfe.ca/retain/](http://bccfe.ca/retain/)).

Your personal health information may also be shared with your prescriber in the case of related conditions (e.g., hepatitis B or C, b-STIs) for both PLWH and those at risk of HIV, in accordance with section 33(2)(d) of FIPPA. The intent is notify your prescriber about eligibility or recommendations for monitoring or management for a related condition, enabling them to manage the follow-up in a manner they consider appropriate.

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

The BC-CfE is committed to safeguarding your personal Information, and abiding by the strict rules for collecting, using, and disclosing your personal information set out under FIPPA. Information used for public health monitoring, drug safety, health research, and reporting is de-identified. This means, that we remove any information, which could be used to identify who you are or to locate you (such as your name, birth date, personal health number, or address).

If you have any questions about how the BC-CfE safeguards your personal information, or how your personal information is collected and used, please email us at [privacy@bccfe.ca](mailto:privacy@bccfe.ca).

### **Questions?**

If you have questions about the Drug Treatment Program, please contact 604-806-8515.