



## PharmaCare Coverage of Early Fills of Medications

On **November 28, 2002**, PharmaCare introduced a computer-system enhancement to ensure prescriptions for long-term medications are not filled too soon.

The enhancement helps to eliminate the dangers associated with having excess quantities of medication on hand. It also avoids wastage, especially in cases in which a physician discontinues a medication while the patient still has a large supply on hand. In such cases, the drug and any portion of the cost paid by the patient and by PharmaCare is wasted.

Here is how the computer enhancement works: If you submit a new prescription for a medication you were previously prescribed or if you request a refill of a medication, when the pharmacist enters the claim on the computer, the system checks to see if the previous fill occurred within 60 days of the current date.

If the previous fill did occur less than 60 days earlier, the system then looks at the days' supply that the pharmacist entered for the fill.

If the result indicates that you have more than 14 days' supply of medication left, the system automatically adjudicates the new claim as "PharmaCare to pay zero." If you choose, you may still have the prescription filled or refilled, but PharmaCare will not cover any portion of the cost.

To have PharmaCare cover the eligible costs of the fill, return to the pharmacy when you have less than 14 days' medication on hand.

Note: In some cases, after consultation with your pharmacist and perhaps with your physician, it may be determined that an early fill of your prescription is appropriate. In this case, PharmaCare would cover the eligible costs.

For Pharmacare information, please visit our Web site at  
[www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharme)

or call Health Insurance BC:

From the Lower Mainland ..... (604) 683-7151

From Elsewhere in B.C. .... (toll-free) 1-800-663-7100