

**TAKE
NOTE!**

Changes to Facilities sector prescription drug plan now effective June 1, 2013

Changes to members' extended health plan – negotiated in the last round of bargaining by the Facilities Bargaining Association (FBA) – mean prescription medications will now be covered under B.C.'s Fair PharmaCare program.

In order to allow more time for implementation, the start date has been moved from April 1 to June 1.

B.C.'s Fair PharmaCare program encourages the use of generic-priced, therapeutically-proven drugs as an alternative to more expensive brand name drugs. It's an approach that will help reduce the rapidly-escalating costs of the FBA's extended health care benefits plan, while maintaining the integrity of members' drug coverage.

B.C. doctors and pharmacists are already familiar with the PharmaCare program.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER CHANGES?

The PharmaCare tie-in with Pacific Blue Cross is the only change to members' health benefits coverage. Pacific Blue Cross is still our provider and members will continue to make claims in the same way as they do now.

We know just how important health benefits are to members and their families.

The PharmaCare tie-in is one of the ways we are protecting our extended health plan so it continues to benefit members in the future.



HOW ARE MEMBERS AFFECTED BY THE PHARMACARE TIE-IN?

Members who are already using generic medications, or any drug covered by PharmaCare, will not be affected by this change.

Members who do not know if a drug they are taking is covered by PharmaCare, should check with their pharmacist.

Members who are currently using a brand name drug that is not covered by PharmaCare – and there's a medical reason why the generic option doesn't work for their condition – should talk to their doctor, who is able to submit a Special Authority Request. Any fees charged by a doctor for filling out these forms are covered by the extended health benefits plan.

HEU is encouraging its Facilities' members, who are currently using a prescription, to inform their pharmacist or doctor that the change to PharmaCare is effective June 1.