



BRITISH COLUMBIA
CENTRE *for* EXCELLENCE
in HIV/AIDS

Drug Treatment Program

St. Paul's Hospital
608-1081 Burrard Street
Vancouver, BC
Canada V6Z 1Y6

Tel 604-806-8515
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www.cfenet.ubc.ca

**PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET for
DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

**This sheet is to be provided to the patient or his/her 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 centre based at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver. Our goal, as mandated by the Ministry of Health, is to improve the health of people living with HIV/AIDS by advancing and promoting the most effective programs to treat and prevent HIV.

What is the Drug Treatment Program?

The Drug Treatment Program provides free HIV medicine to all medically eligible HIV-positive persons living in BC. The BC-CfE administers the Program on behalf of the BC Ministry of Health's PharmaCare program. The Program is required to make sure that each patient gets the right care and treatment after being diagnosed as HIV-positive. For this purpose the BC-CfE:

- collects and monitors the results of every HIV plasma viral load test done in BC (a standard test done only after a positive HIV diagnosis);
- reviews and authorizes all prescriptions for HIV medicines written in BC;
- follows up with your doctor if we have any questions about your prescription; and
- keeps a health record for every patient which includes all HIV test results, all prescriptions written for HIV/AIDS drugs, and other relevant health information.



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How does this work?

The BC-CfE collects all plasma viral load test results done in BC to make sure patients are started on the right treatment at the right time. When it is time for you to start taking HIV medication, your doctor will complete the Drug Treatment Program Enrolment form and write your first prescription for HIV medication. This form and the prescription are sent to the BC-CfE and entered into your health record in our secure database. You may ask your doctor for a copy of this form.

These forms collect important information about your health which a BC-CfE doctor or pharmacist reviews, along with the results of your plasma viral load tests, to make sure you qualify for free HIV medication through the Drug Treatment Program and the medication prescribed for you meets current treatment guidelines.

What Information Does the BC-CfE collect?

To monitor your HIV plasma viral load to make sure you receive the right treatment, at the right time, and to confirm you are eligible for coverage by PharmaCare, we collect your plasma viral load test results plus basic identifying information, including your full legal name, gender, birth date and BC Personal Health Number.

Once your doctor writes your first prescription and you enroll in the Program, we collect your address and information about your health history, your current health and lifestyle, other lab test results, current medications and any side effects from medications you've taken. This information is required in order to dispense your medication and to check the prescribed HIV medications will be safe and effective for you.

We collect updates of this information as necessary and whenever there is a change to your medication. We add all updates to your health record in our secure database.

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

The Drug Treatment Program stores patient information in the BC-CfE Registry, a very secure, computerized database. Access to the Registry is extremely limited and controlled. We take your privacy and confidentiality very seriously and have strict rules,



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procedures and staff training to make sure your information is secure. Privacy laws protect the information and require us to keep it securely protected.

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

Your personal health information is used and disclosed to others such as your physicians, pharmacist or nurse practitioner, to give you care and treatment, and make sure the HIV medication prescribed for you is safe and effective. For this purpose we may send some of your health information to your own doctor or nurse practitioner 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.

We de-identify the information and use it for public health monitoring, drug safety, health research and other health system purposes. When health information is de-identified, 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).

Questions?

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