



Effective **June 5th, 2017**: Methadone (Methadose™), buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone® and generic formulations) and slow-release oral morphine (Kadian®) prescribed for the treatment of opioid use disorder are covered under PharmaCare's **Psychiatric Medications Plan (Plan G)**.

**NOTE:** PharmaCare also covers these medications under the income-based **Fair PharmaCare** plan, and provides 100% coverage for these medications under **PharmaCare Plan C** (Income Assistance) and **Plan W** (First Nations Health Benefits). Full coverage may also be available to Inuit clients who reside in B.C. through Health Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program.

**How to Apply for Plan G**

**1. Check Patient Eligibility**

- The cost of (PharmaCare-covered) opioid agonist treatment is a significant barrier
- Patient has no other insurance or coverage for prescription medications
- Patient believes they qualify for **Medical Services Plan (MSP) Premium Assistance**
  - Adjusted net family income is \$42,000 or less, plus \$3,000 per dependent
  - NOTE: The practitioner is not responsible for verifying the patient's income declaration

**2. Complete Application for PharmaCare Plan G (HLTH 3497) with Patient**

Plan G Application Forms are available here: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/forms/3497fil.pdf>

**Mandatory Information Required on Form HLTH 3497 from Applicants and Prescribers**

| Section A—for APPLICANTS                | Section B—for PRESCRIBERS   |
|---|---|
| 1. Patient name and PHN                 | 1. Prescriber name and College ID number  |
| 2. Eligibility checklist<br>(see above) | 2. Physician/Nurse Practitioner checks off all that apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The patient has been hospitalized for a psychiatric condition, <b>and/or</b></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Without prescribed medication, the patient is likely to be hospitalized for a psychiatric condition, <b>and/or</b></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Without prescribed medication, the patient or another person is likely to suffer serious physical harm, psychological harm or economic loss.</li> </ul> |
| 3. Patient signature                    | 3. Prescriber signature   |

**3. Fax Form to Regional Mental Health and Substance Use (MHSU) Centre**

- A list of regional MHSU Centres and contact information is available here: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare/mhsucs.pdf>
- A list of Child and Youth Mental Health Centres and contact information is here: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare/cymhs.pdf>

**NOTE: DO NOT fax the form directly to Health Insurance BC.** The MHSU Centre will complete Section C and send the form to Health Insurance BC for approval.

## Additional Information

- **Processing time can vary from centre to centre.** The typical turnaround time is a few days before Plan G coverage is activated, but applicants can phone to follow up with the MHSU centre if their application has not been processed within a week.
- **Plan G coverage is provided for a period of up to one year,** after which the physician or nurse practitioner can re-apply to continue coverage if required.
- **Plan G coverage may be extended to new BC residents who have not yet qualified for MSP.** In this case, the practitioner must submit a written request with the application for Plan G coverage, detailing the patient's compelling need for exceptional coverage. If approved, Plan G coverage will be provided for a period of three months, during which time the patient must apply for MSP. Plan G coverage will end after three months if the patient has not applied for MSP.