



## BC Health Authorities Formulary Initiative - Update

**Date:** 27 September 2012

**To:** All Lower Mainland Medical, Nursing and Pharmacy Staff

**From:** Luciana Frighetto, Pharmacy Director, Lower Mainland Pharmacy Services

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As you may be aware, representatives from all BC health authorities (BCHA) have been meeting over the last year to develop and plan implementation of a single provincial drug formulary. I would like to announce that the work in creating a BCHA formulary is complete and all HAs are now ready for implementation.

As we transition into this next phase, each HA will be responsible for its own implementation of the BCHA formulary; therefore, the progress across BC will vary depending upon available resources and implementation plan.

For the Lower Mainland, a pharmacy implementation committee has been formed. A project timeline has been developed with the intention to progressively phase in implementation in an effort to minimize any disruptions to pharmacy operations. You will receive updates from your site pharmacy on all changes to the formulary list. Please find below FAQs for your reference.

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

#### What is the BC Health Authorities Formulary Initiative?

Each hospital has a formulary consisting of medications determined to be safe, effective, and appropriate for use in patients, clients and residents as approved by their P&T Committee. The BC Health Authorities Formulary Alignment Initiative built on this work to create a single provincial formulary list for all health authorities, which ensures all patients, clients and residents in British Columbia have access to the same medications, regardless of the HA delivering their care.

#### Why create one provincial health authority formulary?

A single common formulary ensures that patient, client or resident movement between hospitals or care areas within the same health authority, or between different health authorities, will not result in the need to change medications on arrival at the new facility; thus, reducing work for care providers as well as potentially unnecessary medication interruptions for patients, clients and residents.

#### As a clinician, how is the provincial formulary going to impact me?



Some drugs will be added to the formulary that may be new to your organization and, similarly, some drugs previously available will become non-formulary. In addition, there may be changes to or additional restrictions applied to certain drugs or changes to the Therapeutic Interchange Program within your HA.

**What happens to our existing formulary?**

Your existing formulary will be converted to the new BC Health Authorities Formulary.

**How does this impact our P&T committee?**

Requests for formulary additions and deletions are now handled by the BCHA P&T Committee. Regional or local HA P&T Committees will implement provincial initiatives and will continue to be responsible for HA specific medication related policies.

**What are the timelines for implementation of the BCHA Formulary in the Lower Mainland?**

Implementation of the BCHA Formulary is a substantial undertaking for each HA. Overall, the BCHA Formulary List should be implemented in the Lower Mainland by the end of June, 2013.

**How do I find the changes that have occurred to the formulary?**

Memos or newsletters will be distributed to staff at each site. Information on changes to the formulary will also be posted on the intranet. Please click on the appropriate intranet link below for your site:

Site	Pharmacy Contact	Intranet Site for Formulary Updates
Fraser Health Authority	Anna Yuen/Aaron Tejani	<a href="#">link</a>
Providence Health Care	Linda Tang	<a href="#">link</a>
Vancouver Community of Care (formerly Vancouver Acute - VGH, UBCH, GFS - and Vancouver Community)	Jane Day	<a href="#">link</a>
Lion's Gate Hospital/Coastal	Isla Drummond	<a href="#">link</a>
Richmond Hospital	Rob McCollom	<a href="#">link</a>
Forensics Psychiatric Hospital	Jane Dumontet	TBD
BC Children's & Women's Hospital	Kevin Mui/Don Hamilton	TBD

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the pharmacy contact above or your local pharmacy department.