



# Pharmacy Update

Amendment to the previous update – British Columbia National Pharmacare

March 2026

## British Columbia

Recently the Government of Canada and the province of British Columbia (BC) announced their bilateral pharmacare agreement effective **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**. This program will become the universal, single payer for certain prescription contraceptives and diabetes medications for eligible BC residents (please see Health Canada website for details).

GreenShield is aligning with BC pharmacare and their bilateral agreement, while allowing a **90-day** grace period for claimants who need to apply for special authority.

When a claim for a DIN requiring special authority is adjudicated, GSC will deny the claim and pharmacy will receive a CPhA message "86= confirm provincial drug coverage for DIN". A request for funding must be submitted to the special authority. Should a plan member meet the criteria of coverage and funding is approved, then the claims must be submitted to the BC national pharmacare. However, if the plan member does not meet the criteria for special authority, there are intervention codes that can be used depending on the scenario. Please refer to the instruction below.

- 1) If the DIN in question is a full benefit of the province → BC national pharmacare will pay
- 2) If the DIN in question requires special authority with the province, there will be different **override codes** that can be applied to the claim depending on the scenario:

Scenario	Here's what you do
The plan member has applied to the special authority and funding has been <b>approved</b>	Submit the claim to BC national pharmacare
The plan member has applied to special authority and funding has been <b>denied</b>	Submit the claim to GSC using intervention code: <b><i>DW = applied to provincial plan and rejected.</i></b>
The plan member <b>has not applied</b> to Special Authority or is <b>awaiting a decision</b> .	Advise the patient that they must have the prescriber submit a request for funding to Special Authority if a request has not already been made.  Intervention code <b><i>DX = applied to provincial plan, decision pending,</i></b> can be utilized to allow the patient temporary access to treatment while the Special Authority request is being reviewed.  Use of this intervention code provides a 90-day grace period for plan members. After this grace period, either the province will pay or if they do not meet criteria, the claim will be subject to plan design.

The plan member is <b>not eligible</b> for special authority	Submit the claim to GSC using intervention code: <b><i>DY = not eligible for provincial plan coverage</i></b>

Please note, if the province pays the LCA and the plan member is requesting a brand name drug, this will be subject to plan design with code DA