

About Your Kidney Medications For Dialysis Patients



BC provides most extensive financial support for renal medications in Canada

Did you know BC is the only province in Canada to ensure that all dialysis patients receive medications essential to their kidney care, even if they can't afford them? If the cost of these drugs are not covered by BC PharmaCare, federal government programs or a patient's private health plan, the BC Provincial Renal Agency pays for them. And it's expensive. Medications account for one third of the Renal Agency's budget.

Ensuring best results and close-to-home access

The average dialysis patient in BC is on 12 different medications. For some, that number is as high as 20. The BC Renal Agency plays a large role in making sure you get the best results from your medications. An expert committee of pharmacists and physicians reviews all new drugs coming on the market. They decide which are best and most needed by patients, and how they should be used.

The Renal Agency also manages contracts with a province-wide network of community pharmacies so you can get your prescriptions filled close to home by pharmacists with in-depth knowledge about kidney disease.

A note about medication safety

As a dialysis patient, you likely take a number of medications and may see several different care providers, including your kidney and family doctors. To avoid medication errors, it's very important that you maintain an up-to-date list of all the drugs you take and how you take them. Review your list regularly with those involved in your care.

Want to learn more?

The BC Renal Agency's website has a wealth of information about your kidney medications. At www.bcrenalagency.ca you will find:

- Lists of all agency-approved (and funded) drugs available for dialysis patients in BC
- Medication handouts about these drugs
- Information about using non-prescription medications and how they might interact with your kidney drugs
- Ask a Pharmacist – an email service that enables you to connect directly with a pharmacist in your local area
- Patient Updates – information about new kidney medications

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