

About Your Kidney Medications

For Kidney Patients Not on Dialysis



BC Renal Agency funds kidney medications

Did you know that the BC Renal Agency ensures kidney patients who are not on dialysis (also referred to as CKD patients) have access to a range of medications related 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 for dialysis and CKD patients account for one third of the Renal Agency's budget.

Ensuring best results and close-to-home access

The BC Renal Agency plays a large role in making sure you get the best results from the medications you take to manage your condition. 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 an individual with kidney disease, you likely take a number of different 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:

- Medication handouts about a wide range of kidney-related 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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