



January 5, 2016

1046122

Ms. Joy Peacock
Executive Director
Association of Registered Nurses of British Columbia
jpeacock@arnbc.ca

Dear Ms. Peacock:

It is with great pleasure that I announce the availability of access to PharmaNet for Nurse Practitioners (NPs).

BC introduced NPs in 2005 to respond to gaps in health care services such as primary care, chronic disease, population health prevention and health promotion.

In October 2012, changes to the *Hospital Act* and *Hospital Insurance Act Regulations* provided the framework to enable NPs to admit and discharge patients. In March 2014, amendments to nine statutes related to the integration of NPs into BC's healthcare system were made.

NPs have been included under the New Classes of Practitioners Regulation under the federal *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*; and as of December 2015, amendments to the *Nurses (Registered) and Nurse Practitioner Regulation* enable NPs in BC to prescribe controlled drugs and substances.

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) remains committed to finding ways to continue integrating NPs to help meet the health needs of British Columbians.

As such, the Ministry is opening the enrolment of NPs for access to PharmaNet. Those NPs practicing in the community will be able to request access under the Community Practice Access to PharmaNet service. Forms and information about the registration process are available through this link: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/practitioner-professional-resources/system-access/medical-practice-access-to-pharmanet>

Very shortly, NPs that currently access PharmaNet from within Health Authority systems will be able to request medication dispensing histories in PharmaNet directly, opposed to being under the supervision and authority of physicians. A further update and additional information will be provided once this enhancement becomes available.

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Thank you for your patience and if you have any questions, please contact Sorin Pop, Director PharmaNet at (250) 952-2288.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B Walman', with a stylized, cursive script.

Barbara Walman
Assistant Deputy Minister
Medical Beneficiary and Pharmaceutical Services