

BC Renal Pharmacy Dispensing Policy: Prescription Refills and Travel Supply

1. Purpose and Scope

This policy is approved by BC Renal's Pharmacy Services Committee and sets forth the guidelines and procedures for dedicated BC Renal pharmacies to dispense renal formulary prescriptions and travel supply medication to renal patients. BC Renal reserves the right to audit pharmacies at any time for compliance with this Policy.

2. Eligibility and Authorization

All BC Renal Pharmacies are authorized to dispense renal formulary prescriptions and travel supplies to eligible renal patients. The Policy cannot be applied if a patient is permanently moving outside of British Columbia as BC Renal coverage ends when a patient leaves the province.

Patients must meet the following criteria:

- Diagnosed with chronic kidney disease or be on dialysis
- Registered with a nephrology practice or renal care clinic in British Columbia.

3. Standard Prescription Refills and Quantities for [Renal Formulary Medication](#)

Unless otherwise specified, initial and refill prescription quantities are as per this Policy and apply to both routine outpatient orders and hospital discharge orders.

Type of Prescription	Sevelamer & Lanthanum	Other Drugs
All new medications	- Initial fill quantity is 30 days.	- Initial fill quantity is 30 days.
Previously prescribed medications	- Standard fill quantity shall be 60 days. - Three refills shall be allowed. - The total prescription duration shall be 240 days.	- Standard fill quantity shall be 100 days. - Three refills shall be allowed. - The total prescription duration shall be 400 days.
Refills	- Two refills of 60 days each shall be allowed. - The total prescription duration shall be 150 days.	- Two refills in quantities of 100 days each shall be allowed. - The total prescription duration shall be 230 days.

**Please note: Most prescriptions (new and existing) are valid for up to two years from the prescribing date.*

4. Travel Supply Policy

Coverage Limits:

Patients traveling outside of British Columbia are eligible for a travel supply early refill once every six months (180 days). In alignment with BC Pharmacare limits, BC Renal will cover the travel supply refill to “top up” to the recognized maximum 100 days supply for the drug. If the patient requests more than the maximum days' supply, the patient shall be advised to speak to their renal care team for review and the information relayed to contracts@bcrenal.ca.

Claiming Process and Documentation:

- a) Travel supply shall be dispensed under the patients' usual care provider/prescriber for the medication.
- b) The pharmacist shall notify BC Renal Contracts (contracts@bcrenal.ca) within 24 hours of providing the travel supply, where possible and appropriate. If the patient is part of a renal care team, the pharmacist shall inform the team's coordinator about the provision of travel supplies.
- c) The pharmacist must submit all travel supply billings on the BC Renal monthly billing invoice
 - i. As per BC Pharmacare policy, if the patient has Pharmacare coverage, they must complete and sign a [Pharmacare Travel Declaration form](#) on the date the travel supply is filled. The pharmacist must retain the completed Travel Declaration form (if applicable) and all relevant email communications with BC Renal Contracts for audit purposes.
 - ii. As BC Renal is the payor of last resort, renal pharmacies will be reimbursed for the cost of medications provided and the standard dispensing fee after adjudicating through the patients' applicable public and private plans.