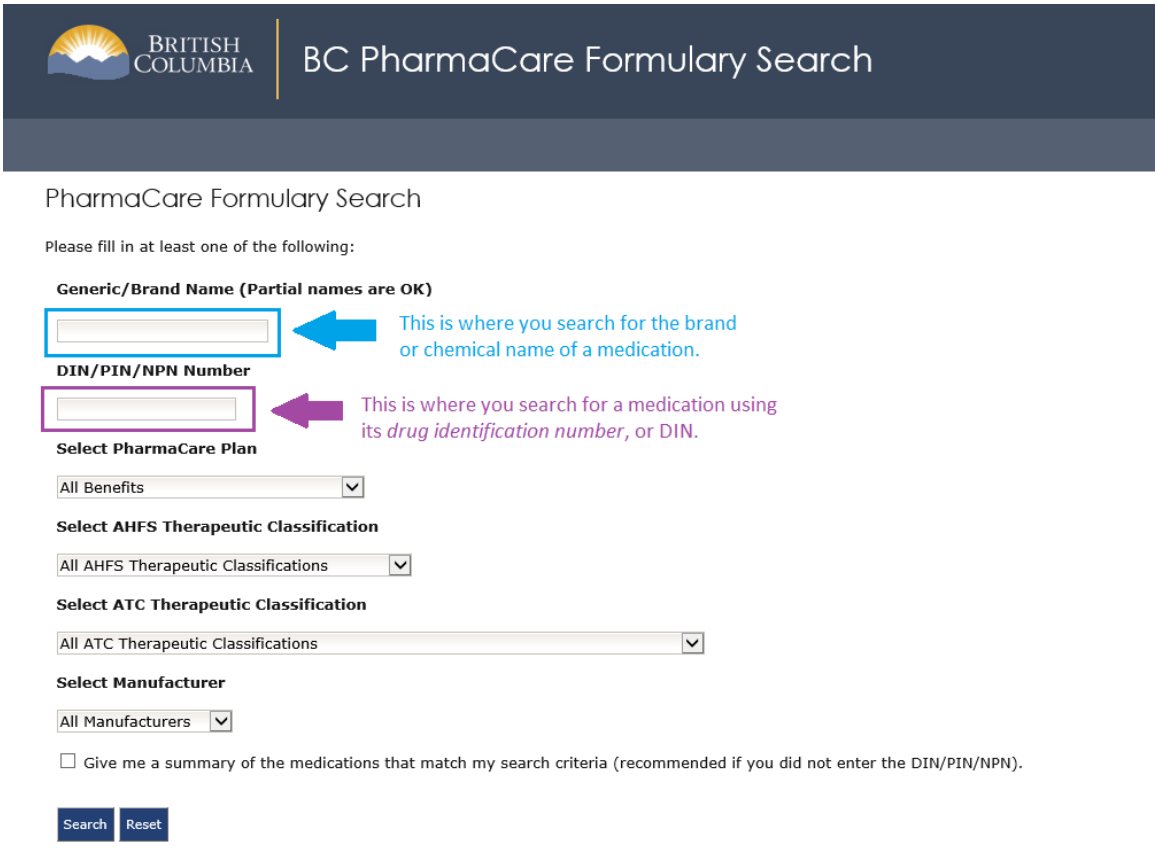
First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

PharmaCare Formulary Search

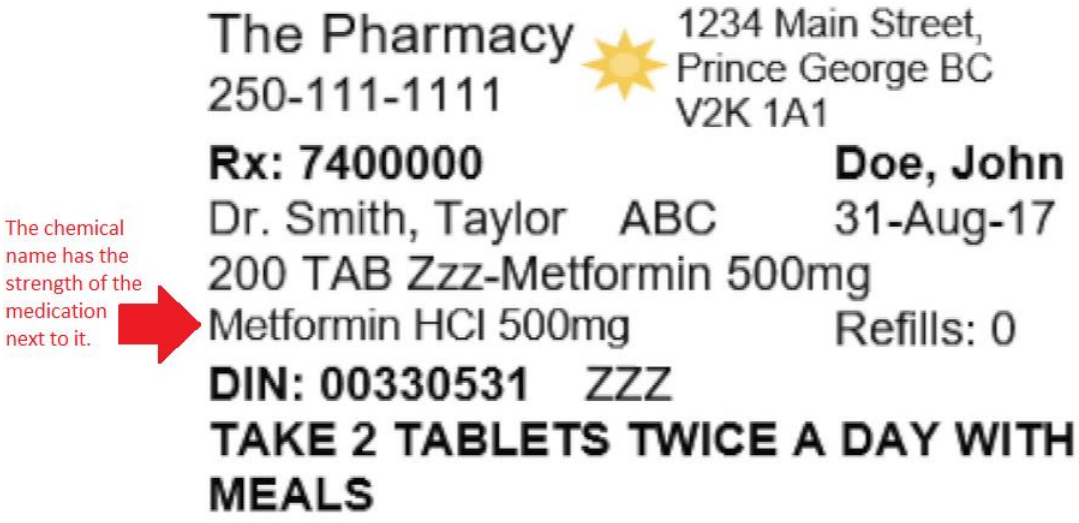
Overview

The BC PharmaCare formulary search website is a tool you can use to see if a medication is covered under Plan W. The website address is https://pharmacareformularysearch.gov.bc.ca/

There are two few different search fields you can use to find a specific medication. The box labeled **"Generic/Brand Name"** is where you can type in the brand or chemical name of a medication. The box labeled **"DIN/PIN/NPN Number"** is where you can type in the *drug identification number* of a medication.



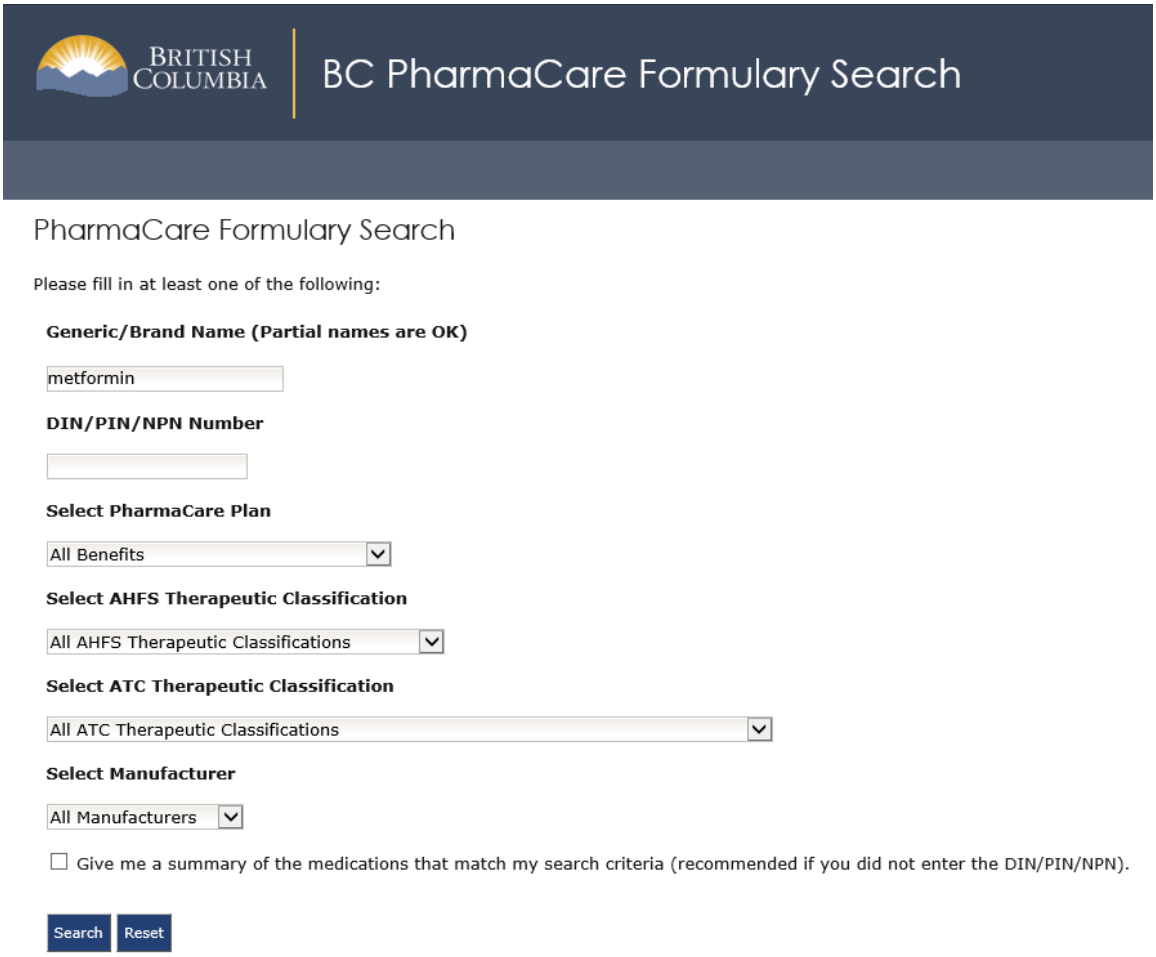
It is easiest to search for a medication using its chemical name. By searching the chemical name, you will see all of the different formulations, strengths, and manufacturers that are available. The chemical name of a medication can be found on the prescription label with the strength of the medication beside it.



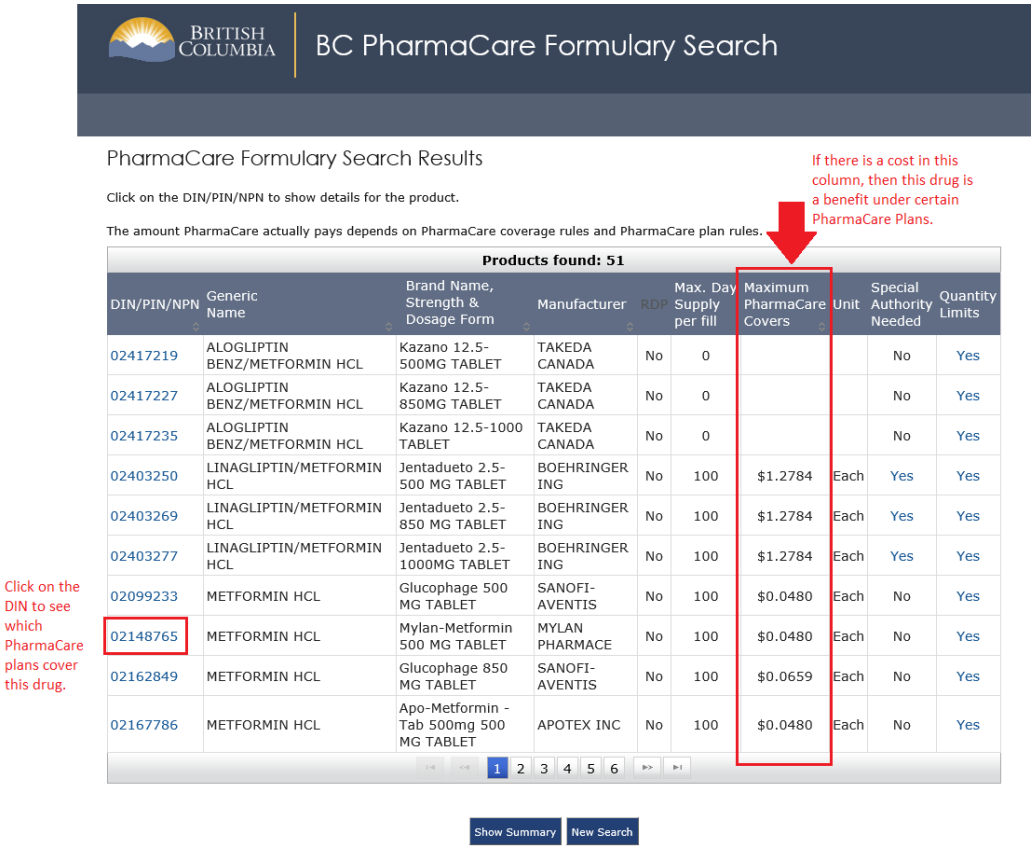
How to search for a drug

In this first example, we will search for a medication using its chemical name: *metformin*.

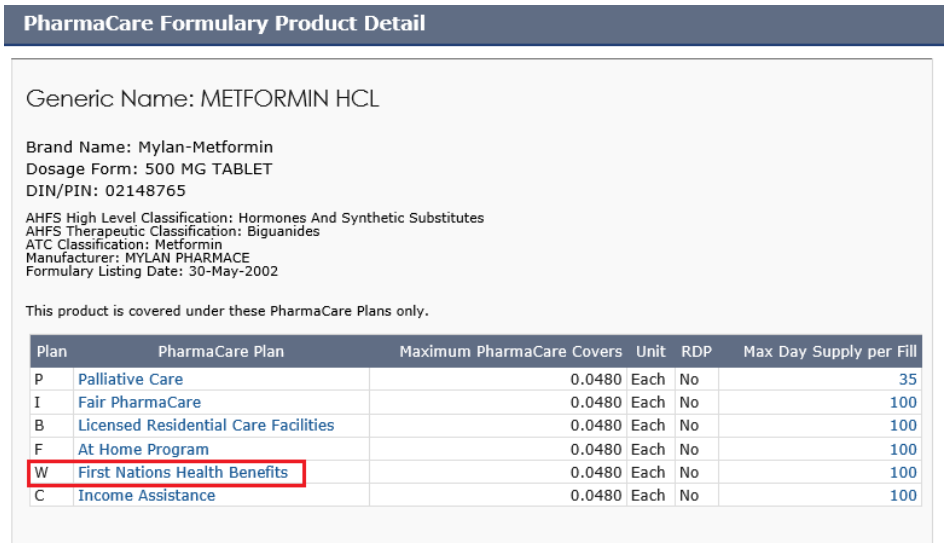
First, type the chemical name of the drug into the **"Generic/Brand Name"** search box.



The PharmaCare Formulary search results will show all of the medications that have metformin as the active chemical that are covered by a Pharmacare plan. This means there are different brands, strengths, and formulations. The search results will also include some medications that are non-benefit items. For some medications, there may be many drugs listed and the search results will extend over multiple pages.



If there is a cost listed in the **"Maximum PharmaCare Covers"** column, then this medication is a benefit under certain PharmaCare plans. Click on the DIN of a specific medication to see which PharmaCare plans it is covered under.



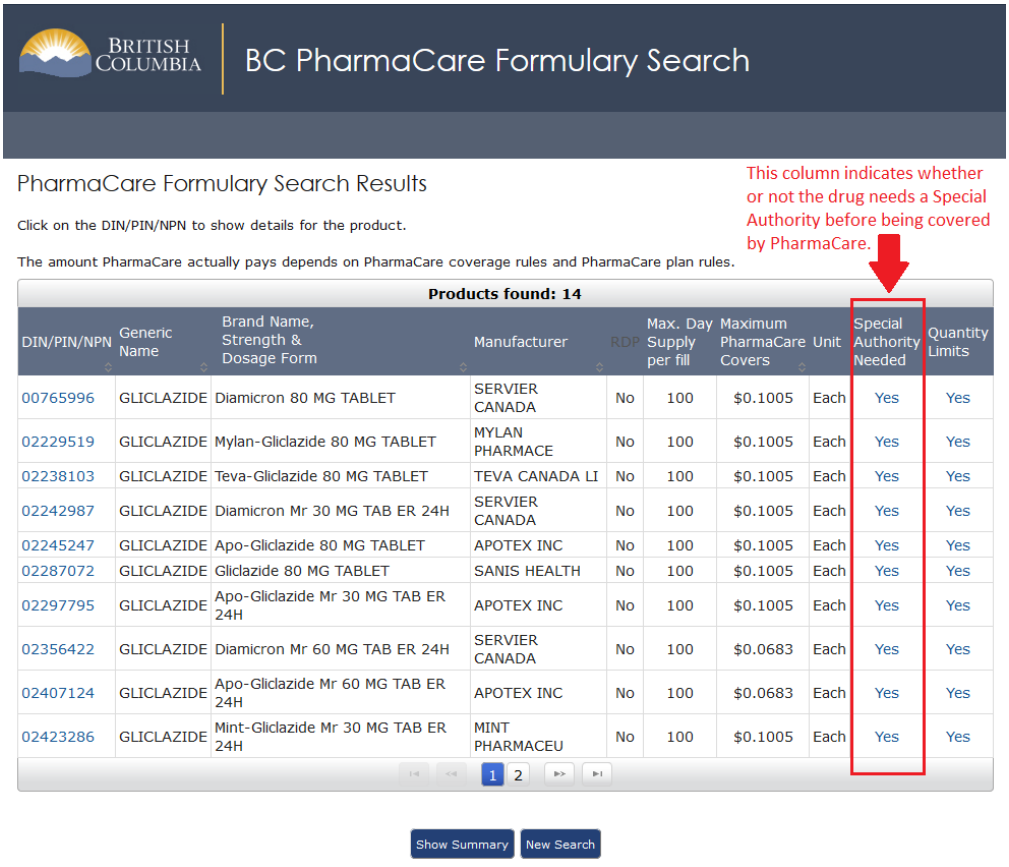
When you click on the DIN, you will see the PharmaCare Formulary Product Detail. On this page you can see a list of PharmaCare plans that cover this drug. If you see **"First Nations Health Benefits"** listed as one of the PharmaCare plans, then this means that medication is covered under PharmaCare Plan W.

Drugs Requiring Special Authority

Some medications require a PharmaCare special authority before being covered by a PharmaCare plan. PharmaCare special authority provides full coverage for a drug, medical supply, or medical device that otherwise would not be covered or only partially covered by a PharmaCare Plan. Coverage is provided for patients with specific medical circumstances.

In this next example, we will search for a drug that requires a special authority using its chemical name: *gliclazide.*

On the PharmaCare Formulary search results, we see that there are a number of drugs that are covered by a PharmaCare plan that have gliclazide as the active chemical. If a medication requires a special authority, it is indicated on the under the **"Special Authority Needed"** column as **"Yes"**.



If you click on the DIN of a drug that requires a special authority, you will see that it says "Available With Special Authority Only".

PharmaCare Formulary Product Detail

Generic Name: GLICLAZIDE

Brand Name: Diamicron
Dosage Form: 80 MG TABLET
DIN/PIN: 00765996

AHFS High Level Classification: Hormones And Synthetic Substitutes
AHFS Therapeutic Classification: Sulfonylureas
ATC Classification: Gliclazide
Manufacturer: SERVIER CANADA
Formulary Listing Date: 01-May-2004

This product is covered under these PharmaCare Plans only.

Plan	PharmaCare Plan	Maximum PharmaCare Covers	Unit	RDP	Max Day Supply per Fill
SA	Available With Special Authority Only	0.1005	Each	No	100

If your prescription requires a special authority, your prescriber (doctor or nurse practitioner) can apply for one when writing your prescription.

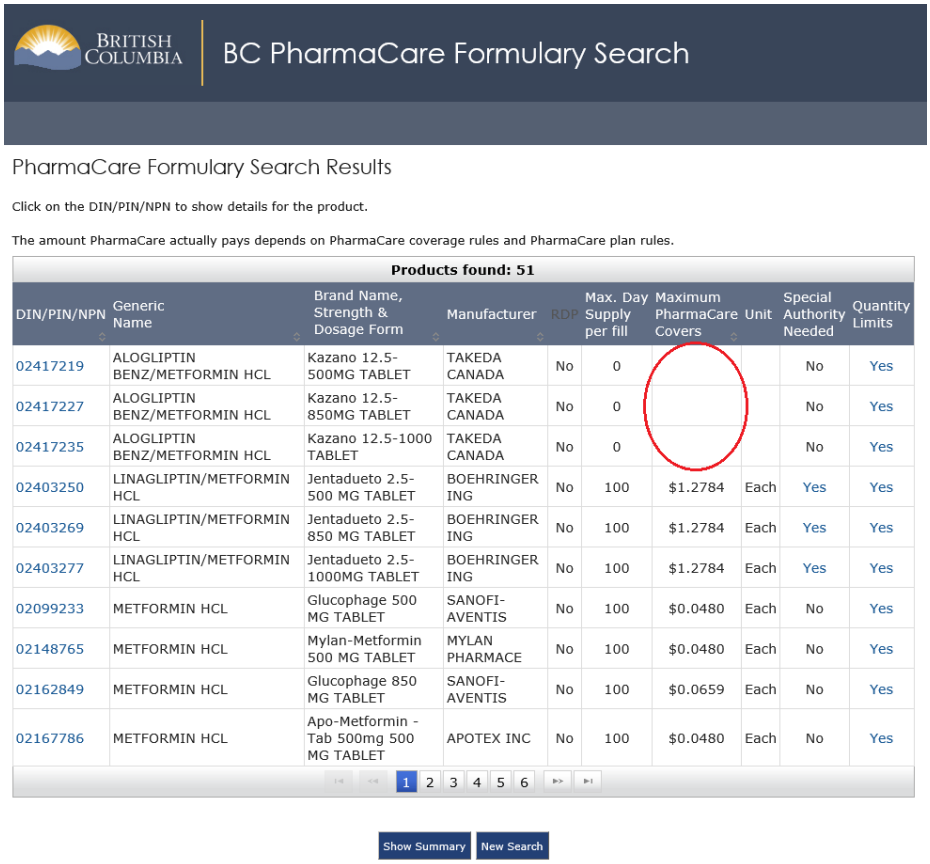
FNHA clients may have grandparented special authority coverage of their medications in place as part of the transition to PharmaCare on October 1st, 2017. Many drugs with grandparented special authority have indefinite coverage, however some special authorities do have an expiry and require the clients' prescriber to re-apply for continued coverage. If you are experiencing any challenges with your special authority or have drug-specific questions, please contact FNHA Health Benefits at 1-855-550-5454.

What happens if a drug is not available as a benefit?

In this next example, we will search for a medication that is a non-benefit item.

Just like the example above, we search the PharmaCare Formulary Search for a drug using its chemical name: *metformin*.

The PharmaCare Formulary search results will show all of the medications that are covered by a PharmaCare plan that have metformin as the active chemical. The search results may include some items that are not covered. If there is no cost listed in the **"Maximum PharmaCare Covers"** column, then that medication is a non-benefit item, which means that it is not covered by PharmaCare.


BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC PharmaCare Formulary Search

PharmaCare Formulary Search Results

Click on the DIN/PIN/NPN to show details for the product.

The amount PharmaCare actually pays depends on PharmaCare coverage rules and PharmaCare plan rules.

Products found: 51

DIN/PIN/NPN	Generic Name	Brand Name, Strength & Dosage Form	Manufacturer	RDP	Max. Day Supply per fill	Maximum PharmaCare Covers	Unit	Special Authority Needed	Quantity Limits
02417219	ALOGLIPTIN BENZ/METFORMIN HCL	Kazano 12.5-500MG TABLET	TAKEDA CANADA	No	0			No	Yes
02417227	ALOGLIPTIN BENZ/METFORMIN HCL	Kazano 12.5-850MG TABLET	TAKEDA CANADA	No	0			No	Yes
02417235	ALOGLIPTIN BENZ/METFORMIN HCL	Kazano 12.5-1000 TABLET	TAKEDA CANADA	No	0			No	Yes
02403250	LINAGLIPTIN/METFORMIN HCL	Jentadueto 2.5-500 MG TABLET	BOEHRINGER ING	No	100	$1.2784	Each	Yes	Yes
02403269	LINAGLIPTIN/METFORMIN HCL	Jentadueto 2.5-850 MG TABLET	BOEHRINGER ING	No	100	$1.2784	Each	Yes	Yes
02403277	LINAGLIPTIN/METFORMIN HCL	Jentadueto 2.5-1000MG TABLET	BOEHRINGER ING	No	100	$1.2784	Each	Yes	Yes
02099233	METFORMIN HCL	Glucophage 500 MG TABLET	SANOFI-AVENTIS	No	100	$0.0480	Each	No	Yes
02148765	METFORMIN HCL	Mylan-Metformin 500 MG TABLET	MYLAN PHARMACE	No	100	$0.0480	Each	No	Yes
02162849	METFORMIN HCL	Glucophage 850 MG TABLET	SANOFI-AVENTIS	No	100	$0.0659	Each	No	Yes
02167786	METFORMIN HCL	Apo-Metformin - Tab 500mg 500 MG TABLET	APOTEX INC	No	100	$0.0480	Each	No	Yes

1 2 3 4 5 6

Show Summary | New Search

If you click on the DIN of a non-benefit item, you will see that it says "Non-Benefit".

PharmaCare Formulary Product Detail

Generic Name: ALOGLIPTIN BENZ/METFORMIN HCL

Brand Name: Kazano
Dosage Form: 12.5-500MG TABLET
DIN/PIN: 02417219

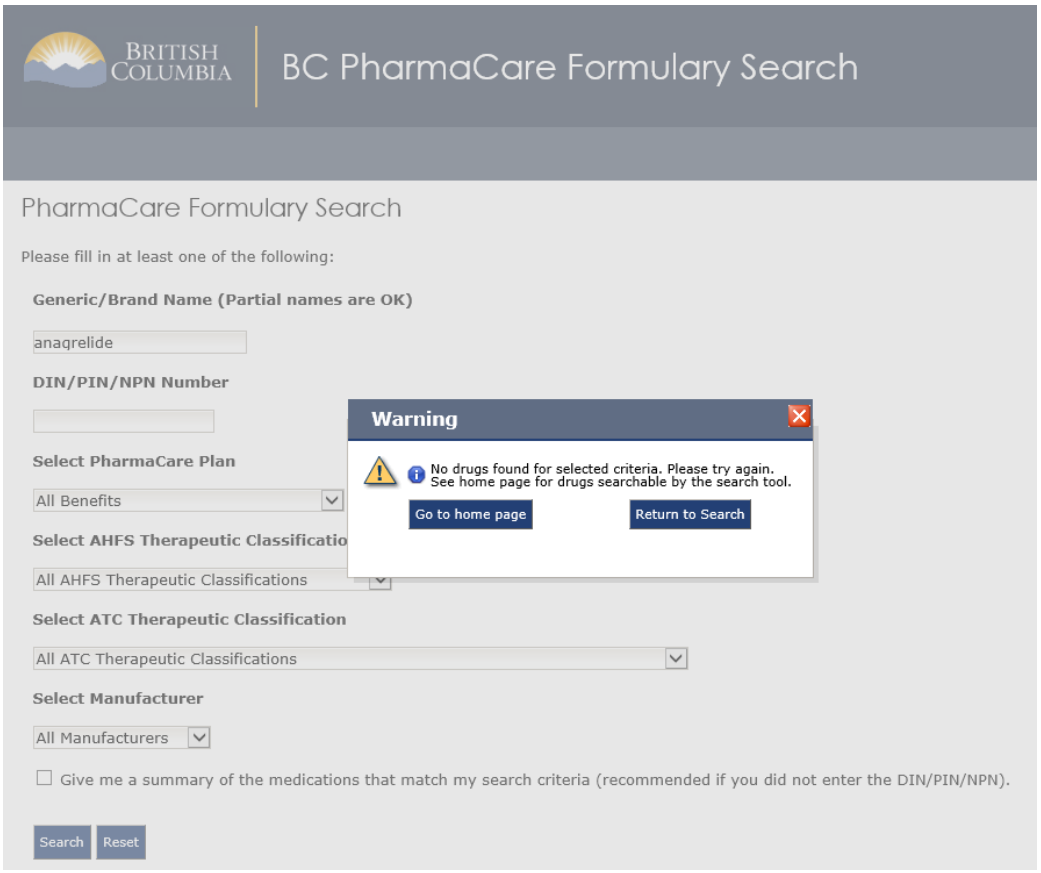
AHFS High Level Classification: Hormones And Synthetic Substitutes
AHFS Therapeutic Classification: Dipeptidyl Peptidase-4(Dpp-4) Inhibitors
ATC Classification: Metformin And Alogliptin
Manufacturer: TAKEDA CANADA
Formulary Listing Date: 01-Jan-1994

This product is covered under these PharmaCare Plans only.

Plan	PharmaCare Plan	Maximum PharmaCare Covers	Unit	RDP	Max Day Supply per Fill
NB	Non-Benefit			No	0

Sometimes when you are searching for a medication that is a non-benefit it will not show up in the formulary search.

For this example, we will search for a non-benefit item that is not covered by PharmaCare: *anagrelide.* When you search for it in the Formulary Search, you get a message that no results were found. This may mean that it is a non-benefit item, or it is a medication available from a Provincial Agency (BC Cancer Agency, BC Renal Agency, BC Transplant, or the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS).



Drugs with grandparented special authority coverage for the transition to PharmaCare on October 1st, 2017 will not show up as a benefit item on the formulary search. Your pharmacist can confirm the status of your special authority by contacting Health Insurance BC.

To get information on drug coverage, you can call our Health Benefits Support line at **1-855-550-5454** or email **healthbenefits@fnha.ca.** Our team is here to help you.