

PRESCRIPTION QUANTITIES RESTRICTIONS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

On March 18, 2020, the Deputy Minister of Health wrote a letter to all Saskatchewan community pharmacies regarding prescription drug quantities and medical supplies. Pharmacists have a key role to prevent stockpiling while ensuring the drug supply remains intact and patients can access their prescriptions in a safe and appropriate manner.

Effective immediately, the Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch (DPEBB) policy regarding the number of claim submissions allowed for each prescription medication will change until further notice.

To ensure the continued supply, and to prevent the stockpiling of prescription medication, the Ministry will require that, **effective immediately**, Saskatchewan pharmacists limit the number and quantity of prescription drug dispenses as follows:

- Saskatchewan pharmacists may only provide a **ONE MONTH** supply (to a maximum of a 35 day supply) in a 28 day period for all drugs not on the Maintenance Drug Schedule (i.e., the 100 Day List and the Two Month Drug List).
- For the Maintenance Drug Schedule, Saskatchewan pharmacists may only provide a:
 - **TWO MONTH** supply in a 55 day period for drugs on the Two Month Drug List.
 - **100 DAY** supply in a 95 day period for drugs on the 100 Day List.
- This restriction applies to all prescriptions regardless of whether the patient pays or has a private or public Drug Plan that pays for the prescription.

| Error Code | |
|------------|--|
| HC | Benefit Rxs – 1 submission exceeded (same drug/same pharmacy) |
| HD | Benefit Rxs – 1 submission exceeded (same drug/different pharmacy) |

DPEBB will NOT authorize Quantity Days Supply Exception (QDSE) approvals for reasons of stockpiling medications and medical supplies for potential coronavirus self-isolation. DPEBB will NOT reimburse individuals for prescriptions that do not adjudicate through the online system.

Please see the link for the Online Claims Processing Codes.

[http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/PDFs/Codes for Pharmacy Online Claims Processing.pdf](http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/PDFs/Codes%20for%20Pharmacy%20Online%20Claims%20Processing.pdf)

The Maintenance Drug Schedule is available at

[http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/PDFs/Maintenance Drug Schedule June-2018.pdf](http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/PDFs/Maintenance%20Drug%20Schedule%20June-2018.pdf)

The Ministry has provided printable information posters which are available on:

- The Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan at <https://www.skpharmacists.ca/>; or
- The Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals at <https://saskpharm.ca/> .

When will the Drug Plan system revert back to the previous policies?

The Ministry will continue to monitor the status of the drug supply and will inform pharmacies when the DPEBB policy changes.

Can my patient pay cash for an additional supply? Should I fill that prescription?

No. Pharmacists have a role to play in preventing drug shortages, and will be required to limit the number and quantity of prescription drug dispenses.

Note: The DPEBB **will monitor claims** for appropriateness to prevent the stockpiling of medication.

Will exceptions be made in certain circumstances to allow more than one month to be adjudicated?

Prescription medications listed on the Maintenance Drug Schedule (i.e., the 100 Day List and the Two Month Drug List) will be allowed in those quantities.

http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/PDFs/Maintenance_Drug_Schedule_June-2018.pdf

Will these changes affect prescription claims for drugs such as methadone, Suboxone®, Hepatitis C drugs, migraine therapy, smoking cessation agents and Alzheimer’s medication?

No. The DPEBB system will allow these prescriptions to adjudicate according to the existing rules.

Will prescriptions with a current QDSE be affected?

No. The DPEBB system will allow these prescriptions to adjudicate according to the current QDSE approval.

Will my private insurer cover the additional prescriptions?

You should contact your private insurer for more information regarding your policy.

Who to Call

If you have any questions, call the DPEBB at 306-787-3317 (Regina) or 1-800-667-7581 (toll-free).