



## New drug plans for Saskatchewan children and seniors

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The Saskatchewan government has introduced new prescription drug plans for children and seniors. These new plans take effect July 1, 2008.

### Children's Drug Plan

The Children's Drug Plan includes a per-prescription cap on drug costs for children 14 years of age and younger. Under the plan, the maximum cost per prescription is \$15 for drugs listed on the Saskatchewan formulary or drugs approved under exception drug status.

No application is required for participation in the new plan. Drugs not listed on the Saskatchewan formulary or drugs not approved under exception drug status will continue to be covered as they are today.

The new plan is seen as a positive change for plan sponsors, since they will now pay no more than \$15 per prescription for eligible drugs, for those 14 and younger who are covered under the plan.

### Seniors' Drug Plan

The new Seniors' Drug Plan introduces an income threshold to the current drug plan for seniors. Under the new plan, Saskatchewan seniors with a valid health card and an individual annual net income of less than \$64,044 in 2006 are eligible. Seniors must submit an application form for the plan and meet these eligibility requirements in order to qualify for coverage under the new plan.

Eligible seniors continue to pay a maximum of \$15 for drugs listed on the Saskatchewan formulary and drugs approved under exception drug status.

Seniors across Saskatchewan will have received application forms from the government for the new plan, and were asked to return their applications by March 31. Seniors who have not yet applied for the new plan are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Those who have been declined for coverage should provide Great-West with a copy of the letter showing they were declined. This will allow Great-West to update plan member records and pay claims appropriately.

The new plan is expected to have minimal impact on benefit plan costs. Considering the current average salary for Saskatchewan employees and the lower income expected for retirees, it's predicted that few seniors will exceed the \$64,044 income threshold. Therefore, the level of claims covered before and after implementation of the new plan should be similar.

Non-formulary drugs will continue to be covered as they are today. Coverage under the current drug plan for seniors remains in place until June 30.

### Submitting claims

Plan members can submit claims to Great-West for out-of-pocket amounts (up to \$15) under the Children's Drug Plan or Seniors' Drug Plan, as follows:

- For plan members with paper-based reimbursement plans, the pharmacist will submit eligible drug claims to Pharmacare; plan members can then submit their receipts to Great-West for reimbursement.
- For those with pay-direct drug cards, the pharmacist will submit eligible drug claims to Pharmacare and submit the out-of-pocket amount to Emergis.
- For those with deferred drug cards, the pharmacist will submit eligible drug claims to Pharmacare; plan members will need to pay the out-of-pocket amount to the pharmacist, and will be reimbursed by Great-West once they have met their day or dollar threshold.

Great-West will also consider reimbursement of balances not paid by the Children's Drug Plan or Seniors' Drug Plan.

### **For more information**

More information about the Children's Drug Plan and Seniors' Drug Plan is available online at [www.health.gov.sk.ca/prescription-drugs](http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/prescription-drugs).

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