

# Seniors' Drug Plan

## General Questions and Answers

March 22, 2018

### What are the changes to the Seniors' Drug Plan?

- Effective midnight June 1, 2016, the cost of a prescription will increase from \$20 to \$25.

### Do seniors who are already on the Seniors' Drug Plan have to re-apply for the Seniors' Drug Plan?

- No, seniors who have already applied and are eligible for the Seniors' Drug Plan will not have to re-apply for the program.

### Has the application process changed?

- The process to apply for the Seniors' Drug Plan has not changed.

### Do I need a special card to redeem my Seniors' Drug Plan benefits?

- No, your pharmacist will know through the Drug Plan computer system that you are eligible for the Seniors' Drug Plan.

### What kinds of benefits are covered under the Seniors Drug Plan?

- Eligible seniors will pay \$25 per prescription for drugs listed in the Saskatchewan Formulary or those approved under [Exception Drug Status](#).
- Maximum Allowable Cost and Low Cost Alternative policies continue to apply.

### Who is eligible for the Seniors' Drug Plan?

- You must be a Saskatchewan resident with a valid [health card](#).
- You must be 65 years of age or older.
- You must have a net income (Line 236 of your income tax return) that is \$68,100 or less in 2016 to be eligible for the 2016 calendar year.

\*\*Please note that the Seniors' Drug Plan does not include seniors who are covered under federal government programs, such as the federal Non-Insured Health Benefits Program or Veterans Affairs.

## **I am currently not on the Seniors' Drug Plan. How do I apply for the Seniors' Drug Plan?**

- If you have questions about the application, please review the questions and answers on the [application process](#).

## **If I am eligible for coverage, will my spouse be covered too?**

- Seniors' Drug Plan eligibility is based on your individual income. Each senior in your household who meets the eligibility requirements must apply for coverage separately.
- There may be situations where one spouse will qualify and the other spouse will not qualify, based on age or income.

## **When will my coverage begin?**

- You can apply for the Seniors' Drug Plan coverage at any time:
- If you apply before your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, your coverage begins the first day of the month that you turn 65.
- If you apply after your 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, your coverage begins as soon as your application is processed.
- You will receive a letter in the mail to inform you if you are or are not approved for coverage.

## **How is the income test value determined?**

- This income test value is based on your eligibility for the Provincial Age Tax Credit.
- If you have questions about the application, please review the questions and answers on the [application process](#).

## **I don't think I am eligible for coverage under the Seniors' Drug Program but my drug costs are still high. Can I still get assistance with my drug costs?**

- The [Special Support Program](#) is designed to assist those with high drug costs in relation to their income.
- If you have questions about the Special Support Program, contact the Drug Plan toll free at 1-800-667-7581 or in Regina at (306) 787-3317.

## **What does this mean if I already receive drug coverage based on Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS)?**

- For drugs covered by the Saskatchewan Formulary and approved under Exception Drug Status, you will pay the lesser of the GIS drug plan coverage or Seniors' Drug Plan coverage.
- For example, if your prescription would cost \$25 under the Seniors' Drug Plan, but only \$9 under GIS coverage, you will continue to pay \$9 for that prescription.

## **What does this mean if I already receive drug coverage based on Saskatchewan Income Plan (SIP)?**

- For drugs covered by the Saskatchewan Formulary and approved under [Exception Drug Status](#), you will pay the lesser of the SIP drug plan coverage or Seniors' Drug Plan coverage.
- For example, if your prescription would cost \$25 under the Seniors' Drug Plan, but only \$9 under SIP coverage, you will continue to pay \$9 for that prescription.

## **Does the Seniors' Drug Plan affect my [Special Support coverage](#)?**

- For drugs covered by the Saskatchewan Formulary and approved under [Exception Drug Status](#), you will pay the lesser of the Special Support coverage or Seniors' Drug Plan coverage.
- For example, if your prescription would cost \$25 under the Seniors' Drug Plan, but only \$9 under the Special Support Program, you will continue to pay \$9 for that prescription.

## **What does this mean if I have drug coverage under [Palliative Care](#) or [Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living \(SAIL\)](#)?**

- Coverage under Palliative Care and SAIL programs (paraplegia, cystic fibrosis, and end stage renal disease programs) provides benefit drugs at no cost.
- You will continue to pay no cost for benefit prescriptions.

## **Why doesn't the Seniors' Drug Plan cover more extended benefits such as dental, optical, or medical supplies?**

- At this time, only prescription drugs listed in the Saskatchewan Formulary or those approved under [Exception Drug Status](#) are covered under the Seniors' Drug Plan.

## **I take many over-the-counter and herbal products. Are they covered under the Seniors' Drug Plan?**

- No. Only prescription drugs listed in the Saskatchewan Formulary or those approved under [Exception Drug Status](#) are eligible for coverage.

## **The Seniors' Drug Plan still covers formulary drugs only, but most of my medications are not on the formulary. How does this program benefit me?**

- If your medication is not listed on the formulary, you will pay the full cost.
- Some medications may be covered under Exception Drug Status if certain medical criteria are met.
- Talk to your physician or pharmacist to see if your medication is eligible for Exception Drug Status. If your medication is approved for coverage, the cost of a prescription will be \$25.

### **Could I get a twelve-month's supply of prescriptions for \$25?**

- Talk to your pharmacist about the number of prescriptions that are available to you. Most prescriptions are dispensed in a 34-day supply, with the exception of drugs listed on the Maintenance Drug List. These are dispensed in a 100-day or two-month supply.
- Each eligible prescription will cost \$25.

### **Is the dispensing fee included in the \$25?**

- The dispensing fee is included in the total cost of the prescription.
- If the total cost of the prescription, including the dispensing fee, is more than \$25, you will still pay only \$25 for eligible prescriptions.

### **Will my private insurer/third party plan cover the additional \$5 cost per prescription?**

- Contact your private insurer/employer plan to see what their policy would be.

### **How can I get more information about the Seniors' Drug Plan?**

- Information is also available online at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/accessing-health-care-services/seniors-drug-plan>.
- Contact the Drug Plan in Regina toll free at 1-800-667-7581 or in Regina at (306) 787-3317.