New Seniors’ Pharmacare program
Frequently Asked Questions

What is happening with Seniors’ Pharmacare?

You may have heard that government had planned to change the Seniors’ Pharmacare program as of April 1, 2016.

Today, we are announcing that the majority of those changes will not happen.

Only one change will go ahead: we are changing the income thresholds so that more low-income seniors will pay no premium or will have their premium reduced.

No other changes will be made until we consult with seniors across the province to ensure your concerns and ideas are heard and taken into consideration.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will my premium go up?
A:  The most you could pay is $424 per year. Under this change, more seniors will have their premium go down, or won’t have to pay a premium at all.

Q: What will my copayment be?
A:  Your copayment will continue to be 30 per cent of the cost of your prescription. This means if your prescription costs $100, you will pay $30, and Seniors’ Pharmacare will pay the rest.

Q: Will I have to give my income information to the government of Nova Scotia?
A:  You will only need to give us that information if you believe your income qualifies you to have your premium waived or reduced. To do that, you can either provide us with your notice of assessment from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), or give us approval to get that information from CRA. Otherwise, you do not have to provide that information.

Q: Will you consider couples’ combined incomes when calculating premiums?
A:  Yes, but no individual will pay more than $424 per year, per person.

Q: How much do I have to earn to be eligible to have my premium waived?
A:  We have raised the income threshold so more seniors will pay no premium at all. As of April 1, 2016, single seniors who earn up to $22,986, and couples who earn up to $26,817 will not have to pay premiums. The old thresholds from 2002 were $18,000 for single seniors and $21,000 for couples.
Q: How much do I have to earn to qualify for a reduced premium?
A: We have raised the income thresholds so more seniors will qualify for a reduced premium. As of April 1, 2016, single seniors earning between $22,986 and $35,000, and couples earning between $26,817 and $40,000, will pay a lower premium.

The old thresholds from 2002 were $18,000 to $24,000 for single seniors, and $21,000 to $28,000 for couples.

Q: What should I do if my income has changed since my last CRA assessment?
A: If your income has changed, you should contact Pharmacare. All you need to do is provide us with confirmation of your current income and we will adjust your premium so it is right for you.

Q: I receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). What does this mean for me?
A: If you receive the GIS, you will not have to pay a premium.

Q: Will I have to give my income information to the government of Nova Scotia?
A: You will only need to give us that information if you believe your income qualifies you to have your premium waived or reduced. To do that, you can either provide us with your notice of assessment from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), or give us approval to get that information from CRA. Otherwise, you do not have to provide that information.

When members first register for Seniors’ Pharmacare they sign a consent for Canada Revenue Agency to send us only their gross income each year. That information is kept highly confidential.

Q: Where can I get more information?
A: Contact Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs
Phone: 902-429-6565
Toll-free: 1-800-544-6191
Fax: 902-468-9402

Mail:
Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs
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