



PharmacareNEWS

inside

COVID-19 Updates to Public Coverage

Increase in Special Service Fee for COVID-19 Immunization

Prescription Renewals for Pharmacy Closures

Community Pharmacy Dispensing of Oral Antiviral Medications for COVID-19

COVID-19 Updates to Public Coverage

The Pharmacy Service Agreement has been amended to include two new services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to increase the fee for COVID-19 immunizations. The amending agreement is available online at <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/pharmacare/pharmacy-guide.asp>.

Increase in special service fee for COVID-19 immunization

Effective January 23, 2022, to March 31, 2022, the fee for COVID-19 immunizations will be temporarily increased to \$18. The change in fee will be implemented automatically for doses administered during that timeframe and will pertain to future bottom-line adjustments for COVID-19 immunizations on each pharmacy's pay statement.

Prescription renewals for pharmacy closures

For Nova Scotia residents unable to access their usual pharmacy because it is closed due to COVID-19 impacts, effective January 21, 2022, pharmacies may bill DHW for prescription renewal services when required to ensure the continuity of care for patients. Pharmacy closure prescription renewal services must be performed in compliance with the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists' *Standards of Practice: Prescribing Drugs* (January 2022 update, section 4.3 *Pharmacy Closures*). A special service fee of \$12 is in effect for renewal of three prescriptions or less and \$20 for renewals of four prescriptions or more. There is no maximum number of services for which a resident is eligible for coverage and claims will not affect the resident's annual maximum of regular prescription renewal services.

Pharmacy closure prescription renewals will be subject to audit and must comply with the requirements in Pharmacy Guide for prescription renewals except for the following:

- Prescriber notification documentation is not required (pharmacy closure specific)
- Duration of therapy prescribed must be consistent with the number of refills remaining on the patient's prescription unless a documented clinical reason is provided

Prescription renewals for pharmacy closures continued...

- Documentation must include the name and license number of the pharmacy that was closed and the reason why the prescription had to be refilled prior to the pharmacy reopening

Claims must be submitted electronically using the following CPhA Claims Standard field content:

CPhA Claims Standard – Pharmacy Closure Prescription Renewal for 3 or Less Prescriptions Renewed

Field #	Field Name	Content
D.56.03	DIN/GP#/PIN	93899831
D.57.03	Special Service Code	002 (pharmacist intervention)
D.58.03	Quantity	000001 (one)
D.61.03	Prescriber ID	Licence number
D.64.03	Special Authorization Code	91 (In Person), 92 (Telephone) or 93 (Video)
D.65.03	Intervention Code	ED
D.66.03	Drug Cost/Product Value	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.67.03	Cost Upcharge	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.68.03	Professional Fee	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.72.03	Special Services Fee(s)	1200 (\$12.00) *

* The copayment and/or deductible **will not** be applied to this claim.

CPhA Claims Standard – Pharmacy Closure Prescription Renewal for 4 or More Prescriptions Renewed

Field #	Field Name	Content
D.56.03	DIN/GP#/PIN	93899830
D.57.03	Special Service Code	002 (pharmacist intervention)
D.58.03	Quantity	000001 (one)
D.61.03	Prescriber ID	Licence number
D.64.03	Special Authorization Code	91 (In Person), 92 (Telephone) or 93 (Video)
D.65.03	Intervention Code	ED
D.66.03	Drug Cost/Product Value	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.67.03	Cost Upcharge	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.68.03	Professional Fee	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.72.03	Special Services Fee(s)	2000 (\$20.00) *

Community pharmacy dispensing of oral antiviral medications for COVID-19

On January 17, 2022, nirmatrelvir/ritonavir (Paxlovid™) was approved for use by Health Canada for patients with mild to moderate disease who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death. The federal government has procured a supply of this product for Canada which is being distributed to jurisdictions. Supply is however very limited at this time. With the assistance of the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia, specific pharmacies have been identified throughout the province to dispense this medication. Designated prescribers at the Nova Scotia Health Authority will assess and prescribe the medication to those in the highest risk categories and direct the prescription to designated pharmacies only.

Please note that all residents in Nova Scotia who have a positive COVID-19 test (PCR or rapid) should be encouraged to register their positive result and complete the online COVID-19 Report and Support screening form at <https://c19hc.nshealth.ca/self-report/>. This form will collect information to help identify people who are eligible for and may benefit from COVID-19 medications and treatments to reduce the risk of severe disease and hospitalization. It will also be used to identify people who may need additional support from Public Health. If patients have difficulty completing the online form, they can call 811 for assistance.

Claims submission:

Pharmacies who are part of the designated list to receive and dispense the supply of oral antivirals may claim:

- dispensing fees of up to the maximum Pharmacare dispensing fee in effect in the Pharmacare Tariff Agreement and
- a special fee of \$3.50.

To be eligible for coverage, the medication must be prescribed by an NSH-authorized prescriber (a prescriber list will be provided). All persons requiring the medication in Nova Scotia are eligible for coverage, including non-residents. At this time, the only product eligible for coverage is Paxlovid™ (DIN 02524031).

Claims for patients with a Nova Scotia health card must be submitted electronically using the following CPhA Claims Standard field content:

Claims Submission Fields for COVID-19 Oral Antiviral Medications

Field Name	Content
DIN/GP#/PIN	Eligible DINs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paxlovid™ 02524031
Special Service Code	003 (pharmacist consultation)
Quantity	000001 (one)
Prescriber ID	Licence number
Intervention Code	ED
Drug Cost/Product Value	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
Cost Upcharge	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
Professional Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To March 31, 2022: \$12.39 ▪ April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023: \$12.54
Special Services Fee(s)	3500 (\$3.50) *

* The copayment and/or deductible **will not** be applied to this claim.

Community pharmacy dispensing of oral antiviral medications for COVID-19 continued...

Delivery charges

For patients who have no options available for the pick-up of the medication, coverage for delivery services is available for patients. In such cases, pharmacies may submit a claim using a special PIN based on actual costs incurred. At this time, the only product eligible for coverage of fees is Paxlovid™ (DIN 02524031). Claims for delivery charges must be supported by a documented invoice of actual cost incurred, which must be available at the time of audit. The following must be noted by the pharmacist on the invoice to validate it was in relation to an eligible COVID-19 oral antiviral medication:

- Drug name and/or DIN of eligible antiviral product delivered
- Patient's Nova Scotia health card number
- Full name, license number and signature of dispensing pharmacist
- Full name and license number of prescriber

A copy of the associated Pharmacare claim printed and attached to the invoice would also suffice for documentation.

If delivery was provided by pharmacy staff and not an external delivery service (so there is no invoice), the maximum amount eligible for reimbursement is \$10. Documentation must be available for audit purposes indicating the pharmacy provided the delivery service directly.

Claims for delivery services for patients with a Nova Scotia health card must be submitted electronically using the following CPhA Claims Standard field content. **The delivery cost must be entered in the Professional Fee field and the Prescriber ID must be the license number of the dispensing pharmacist.**

CPhA Claims Standard – COVID-19 Oral Antiviral Delivery Fee (General)

Field #	Field Name	Content
D.56.03	DIN/GP#/PIN	93899829
D.58.03	Quantity	000001 (one)
D.61.03	Prescriber ID	Licence number
D.66.03	Drug Cost/Product Value	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.67.03	Cost Upcharge	DDDDD (dollar value - not adjudicated)
D.68.03	Professional Fee	DDDDD (dollar value)

Dispensing and delivery for non-residents

Claims for dispensing to patients who do not have a Nova Scotia health card cannot be submitted to DHW electronically. The drug dispense should be recorded in the pharmacy's software per usual practice and DHW will access dispense records for non-residents from the provincial *Drug Information System (DIS)* on a bi-weekly basis to submit bottom-line adjustments to Medavie Blue Cross for inclusion on the pharmacy's pay statement. This is similar to the process used for COVID-19 immunization payments.

Community pharmacy dispensing of oral antiviral medications for COVID-19 continued...

Should **delivery services for non-residents** be required, pharmacies must submit an electronic copy of the invoice to DHW by email to pharm.serv@novascotia.ca or by fax to 902-428-3400. The cost incurred will be added to the pharmacy's bottom-line adjustment. The following must be documented on the invoice that is submitted to DHW:

- Pharmacy license number and name
- Pharmacy MSI provider number
- Drug name and DIN of eligible antiviral product delivered
- Drug Information System (DIS) prescription number
- Full name and license number of prescriber
- Full name, license number and signature of dispensing pharmacist

If delivery was provided directly by the pharmacy (no invoice), the information above and **the date of delivery** should be submitted, and the claim will be reimbursed at the maximum non-invoice rate of \$10.

Questions about billing for non-residents may be directed to pharm.serv@novascotia.ca.