



# PharmacareNEWS

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### **Nova Scotia Formulary Updates**

Update on COVID-19 Pharmacy Measures

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#### **Pharmacare Update on 30-day Prescription Limits**

As drug supplies and pharmacist management of drug shortages is normalizing, the following changes are in effect immediately for Pharmacare claims:

Extra dispensing fees related to the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists 30-day supply directive will continue to be absorbed by the Seniors' and Family Pharmacare Programs on previously affected prescriptions for the patient's next refill, when the balance of the prescription owing is expected to be provided. As most beneficiaries will have received balance of their prescription at the next refill, the option of covering the additional dispensing fee portion of the copayment for beneficiaries (i.e. entering \$0 in the dispensing fee field) will not be available after June 30, 2020.

For clients enrolled in the Department of Community Services (DCS) Pharmacare Benefits program, DCS will continue to waive the \$5 copay on all prescriptions until further notice.

Effective immediately, any reduction of supplies dispensed that are not in accordance with the supply requested by the prescriber must follow normal pre-COVID 19 practices and are subject to audit as per the ***Nova Scotia Pharmacy Guide***.

#### **Removal of In-Person Requirement for Assessment and Prescribing and Claim Limits on Renewals – Extended to June 30, 2020**

In the March bulletin, pharmacies were advised that the in-person requirement for assessment and prescribing (contraceptive management, urinary tract infection, herpes zoster) was removed as well as the removal of the per-person claim limit for prescription renewals, until June 1, 2020. This should have read June 30, 2020.

Pharmacists should refer to their Standards of Practice and use their professional discretion to determine if a service should be provided without an in-person assessment. All other requirements as identified in the ***Nova Scotia Pharmacy Guide*** will continue to apply for service claims.

**Update on COVID-19 Pharmacy Measures Continued...**

**New Benefit - UK Labelled Teva-Salbutamol**

Teva Canada Limited has received approval from Health Canada for the importation and release of a limited supply of UK-labelled salbutamol metered dose inhalers to mitigate the shortages of salbutamol MDIs in Canada related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs will be adding this product as a temporary benefit effective May 21, 2020.

The UK-labelled salbutamol inhalers have the same active ingredient and concentration as the Canadian product and are used in the same way. However, there are differences in the preparation for use instructions and labelling regarding maximum doses. Pharmacists are directed to consult and use the Health Canada information available at <https://www.healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2020/73095a-eng.php> when prescribing or dispensing this product.

PRODUCT	STRENGTH	PIN	PRESCRIBER	BENEFIT STATUS	MFR
Teva-Salamol CFC-Free 100mcg	100mcg/dose oral inhaler	09858115	DNPM	SFC	TEV