

Pharmacare NEWS

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Nova Scotia Formulary Updates

New Pharmacare Tariff, Pharmacy Services and Community Pharmacy Primary Care Clinic Agreements

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New agreements for Pharmacy Services, Pharmacare Tariff, and CPPCCs will be in effect February 2, 2026. These include:

1. The Services Agreement which supports continued and expanded government funding for pharmacy services across all pharmacies in the province, introducing new services and updated delivery requirements. The agreement is in effect through March 31, 2028.
2. The Tariff Agreement ensures continued access to dispensing services and related benefits for Pharmacare beneficiaries and is in effect through March 31, 2028.
3. In addition to these agreements, an 18-month CPPCC Agreement has been finalized to support the continued operation of 46 CPPCCs through July 31, 2027.

Pharmacy Services Agreement highlights

Introduces new services and updated delivery requirements, including: select common and minor ailments, deprescribing of specific medications, nicotine reduction program, basic medication injection, complex medication injection, assessment and prescribing for HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), and limited expansion of Group A streptococcal pharyngitis assessment in select communities not currently served by existing CPPCCs.

Pharmacare Tariff Agreement highlights

Introduces new dispensing fees, sets a new maximum mark-up, and updates service requirements for medication review services, limiting them to patients who demonstrate specific need and meet criteria outlined in the Pharmacy Guide under Nova Scotia's Pharmacare Programs. Dispensing fees and billing requirements for non-sterile compounds are also updated and clarified.

New Pharmacare Tariff, Pharmacy Services and Community Pharmacy Primary Care Clinic Agreements Continued...**Pharmacy Guide**

For professional service fees, maximum services per resident, claims criteria, and funding eligibility requirements, consult the updated Pharmacy Guide at <https://novascotia.ca/dhw/pharmacare/pharmacy-guide.asp>. Pharmacists are expected to review and comply with all public coverage and audit requirements to ensure services meet public funding rules.

Confirmation of Agreement for Services and Tariff Agreements

To bill under the terms of the new agreements, pharmacies must sign and submit Confirmation of Agreement forms to Medavie Blue Cross by **January 31, 2026**. The forms are available to be downloaded at:

<https://novascotia.ca/dhw/pharmacare/pharmacy-guide.asp>.

Retroactive Payments

Retroactive lump-sum payments for eligible dispensing and service fees are expected to be issued:

- By the last pay period in February 2026 for claims with a date of service between October 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025
- By the first pay period in May 2026 for claims with a date of service between April 1, 2025 – February 1, 2026

These will appear as bottom line adjustments on pharmacy statements.