



March 18, 2020

Dear Saskatchewan Pharmacist:

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Health continues to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic closely and provide up-to-date information and advice.

To ensure the continued supply, and to prevent the stockpiling of prescription medication, the Ministry will require that, **effective immediately**, Saskatchewan pharmacists limit the number and quantity of prescription drug dispenses as follows:

- Saskatchewan pharmacists may only provide a **ONE MONTH** supply (to a maximum of a 35 day supply) in a 28 day period for **ALL DRUGS NOT ON THE MAINTENANCE DRUG SCHEDULE** (i.e., the 100 Day List and the Two Month Drug List).
- Saskatchewan pharmacists may only provide a **TWO MONTH** supply in a 55 day period for drugs on the **TWO MONTH DRUG LIST**.
- Saskatchewan pharmacists may only provide a **100 Day** supply in a 95 day period for drugs on the **100 DAY LIST**.
- This restriction applies to all prescriptions regardless of whether the patient pays or has a private or public Drug Plan that pays for the prescription.

The Maintenance Drug Schedule can be found on the Saskatchewan Online Formulary: http://formulary.drugplan.health.gov.sk.ca/PDFs/Maintenance_Drug_Schedule_June-2018.pdf

The Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch (DPEBB) claims system is being updated to reflect the above requirements. The HC and HD error codes will now be returned to the pharmacy if the above quantities are exceeded.

The Ministry has consulted with the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals and the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan on these restrictions, and has the support of both organizations in this matter.

The Ministry will be contacting the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association Inc. to advise private payers of this requirement. The Ministry will be asking all private sector health insurers to collaborate with community pharmacies to ensure that adjudication processes and practices support community pharmacies in Saskatchewan to meet the Ministry's directive.

The Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch (DPEBB) will be sending a Pharmacy Bulletin with additional information to all pharmacies in follow-up to this letter.

The Ministry will continue to monitor the situation to ensure maintenance of access to prescription medications, and will determine if further changes may be needed in the future.

Pharmacists, as important members of the healthcare team in Saskatchewan, play a key role in insuring the continued availability of prescription medication in the province.

Please continue to refer to Saskatchewan.ca/COVID19 at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus> for the most up-to-date information from the province and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Sincerely,



Max Hendricks
Deputy Minister of Health