

SASKATCHEWAN FORMULARY BULLETIN

Exception Drug Status (EDS)

Automatic Extension of EDS Coverage – final extension

As the province has transitioned to Living with COVID, the Ministry of Health recognized there were health system challenges that affected the ability of prescribers, pharmacists, and patients to coordinate routine follow-up patient visits, lab work, or assessments for EDS renewals. As a result, the Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch (DPEBB) automatically extended EDS coverages between March 2020 and August 2022. Please note changes below:

EDS – Automatic Extension – September:

The DPEBB will extend EDS approvals for a period of six months for coverages that expire between September 1, 2022 to September 30, 2022.

- Coverage will be extended to March 1, 2023 to March 30, 2023.
- The extension will occur one month prior to the expiry date.
- **Automatic EDS extension applies** to drugs where it is anticipated the therapy will be long-term.
- **Automatic EDS extension for September 2022 will not include** drugs associated with short courses of therapy (such as antibiotics), or finite courses as defined in the EDS criteria (such as hepatitis C medications, etc.) and drugs for the treatment of multiple sclerosis.
- Prescribers and pharmacists may check the Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP) viewer for the patient's updated EDS coverage dates.
- Prescribers and pharmacists are not required to submit an EDS renewal request for most long-term medications during this automatic EDS extension period.
- Individuals may contact the Drug Plan for a copy of their EDS extension letter.

****NEW** EDS – Coverage Expiring October 2022:**

As of October 1, 2022, the DPEBB will not automatically extend EDS coverages. The DPEBB has planned a phased approach to obtain EDS renewal requests. Individuals will be notified by mail 2 – 3 months before their EDS coverage expires. A prescriber or pharmacist must submit an EDS request to the Drug Plan to renew coverage that will be expiring. As part of an ongoing review of EDS criteria and approval durations, 170 Drug Identification Numbers (DINs) were identified for longer approval durations and will be updated accordingly. For example, EDS approval durations may be extended to 3 year or indefinite coverage. Prescribers and pharmacists may check the Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP) for expiry dates.

EDS – New Requests:

Prescribers and pharmacists may submit new EDS requests by fax to 306-798-1089 or by calling the Drug Plan (number listed below).

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience during this time. We continue to review processes and may adjust if required as the Fall season dictates. Please continue to check the Saskatchewan Formulary website, **What's New** tab (<https://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/News>), for updates and information.

Saskatchewan Ministry of Health
Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch
2nd Floor, 3475 Albert Street
REGINA SK S4S 6X6
306-787-8744 or 1-800-667-2549

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