

PRESCRIPTION QUANTITY RESTRICTIONS Updated list of exceptions

To ensure the continued supply of prescription medications during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Health requires that Saskatchewan pharmacists limit the quantity and frequency of prescription drugs dispensed. Pharmacists have an important role in preventing the stockpiling of prescription medication. Refer to **Bulletin #722 Prescription Quantity Restrictions, March 18, 2020**, on the *What's New* tab on the on-line Formulary at <http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/SearchFormulary>, regarding the Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch (DPEBB) claims system changes.

Effective March 18, 2020, for drugs **not** included on the Maintenance Drug Schedule, only one prescription claim will adjudicate in a 28 day period. A prescription claim in the case of these drugs will be a one-month supply to a maximum of a 35-day supply. Pharmacies will receive an HC/HD error code for claims that exceed one in 28 days. If the prescription allows, consider using professional judgement to dispense an adequate one-month quantity to avoid generating an HC/HD error* (see Note below).

For drugs listed on the Maintenance Drug Schedule, pharmacists should provide the following quantities if the prescription allows:

- **TWO MONTH** supply in a 55 day period for drugs on the Two Month Drug List.
- **100 DAY** supply in a 95 day period for drugs on the 100 Day List.

Pharmacies are reminded that these restrictions apply to all prescriptions regardless of whether the patient pays or has a private or public Drug Plan that pays for the prescription.

The Drug Plan has made the following exceptions to prescription quantity restrictions:

- Alzheimer's medications
- Hepatitis C drugs
- Migraine therapies
- Smoking cessation agents
- Buprenorphine/naloxone
- Methadone
- Warfarin
- Short course of antibiotics or oral steroids
- Injectable antipsychotics
- Antibiotic eye or ear drops
- Combination antibiotic/steroid eye or ear drops
- Diclectin® and generics
- Emergency contraception

*Note:

- The HC/HD restriction does not apply to drugs dispensed weekly or bi-weekly as per prescriber's orders with an approved Quantity Days Supply Exception (QDSE) in place.
- Quantity restrictions will not be lifted on controlled drugs listed in the Prescription Review Program panel of monitored drugs.

If you or your patients have any questions, call the DPEBB at 306-787-3317 (Regina) or 1-800-667-7581 (toll-free).

Paper claims may be faxed to the DPEBB at 306-787-8679.

More information is available at the following links:

- <http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca>; and
- The secure Drug Plan WEB page at <https://www.drugplan.health.gov.sk.ca>.