

Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs

The Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program

December 2008

The information in this booklet is subject to change and does not replace the Health Services and Insurance Act

For Program Questions

Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program
Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs
PO Box 500
Halifax, NS B3J 2S1

230 Brownlow Avenue
Dartmouth, NS B3B 0G5

Telephone: (902) 496-7001
Toll Free: 1 (800) 305-5026
www.nspharmacare.ca

For Health Card Questions

Medical Services Insurance
PO Box 500
Halifax, NS B3J 2S1

Telephone: (902) 496-7008
Toll Free: 1 (800) 563-8880
www.gov.ns.ca/health/msi.htm

For Income Tax Notice of Assessment

Canada Revenue Agency
Tax Centre
PO Box 12077, Station A
St. John's, NL A1B 3Z2

Toll Free: 1 (800) 959-8281
www.cra-arc.gc.ca

Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program

Diabetes Assistance
Program



The Program

The Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program is a provincial drug plan that was set up to help pay for most prescribed medications and supplies used to manage diabetes. Since then, a more comprehensive program, the Nova Scotia Family Pharmacare Program has been put in place to assist any Nova Scotian who does not have drug coverage or who is experiencing high drug costs not covered by their private insurance. This brochure provides information on how you can learn more about the Nova Scotia Family Pharmacare Program.

Who is Eligible?

You may register for the Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program if you:

- are a permanent Nova Scotia resident
- have a valid Nova Scotia Health Card
- are under the age of 65 years
- have a confirmed diagnosis of diabetes
- agree to family income verification through Canada Revenue Agency (Notice of Assessment) each year
- agree to provide family size information each year
- do not have coverage through Veterans Affairs Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health, or any other drug insurance plan for medications and supplies for diabetes
- agree to provide information about your diabetes when you register

The Value to You

Government will assist you with the cost of your diabetes medications and supplies. The amount of assistance you receive will depend on your family income and the size of your family. Everyone registered in the Program will be expected to pay:

- 20 per cent of the cost of prescriptions for medications or supplies covered under the Program. This part of the cost is called the **copayment**.
- An **annual family deductible**, which is based on family income and family size. This deductible begins on April 1st of each year. When the total deductible for the

year has been paid, you will only be required to pay the copayment on your prescriptions. The copayment does not count towards the deductible.

How to Register

If you would like to register for this Program, please complete a registration form available at the following locations:

- Doctors' offices
- Pharmacies
- Diabetes Centres
- Nova Scotia Office of the Canadian Diabetes Association
- Pharmacare Programs' Office
- On-line at www.nspharmacare.ca

Medications and Supplies

The Program covers...

- Insulin
- Oral blood glucose lowering drugs (anti-hyperglycemics)
- Blood glucose test strips
- Needles
- Lancets
- Syringes

The Program does not cover...

- medications or supplies taken or used for other medical conditions, such as blood pressure or heart problems
- blood glucose monitors, insulin pumps or pump supplies
- diabetes medications or supplies that are not listed in the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Formulary (You can discuss this with your prescriber or pharmacist, or view the formulary on our website at www.nspharmacare.ca.)

Coverage for exception status drugs

- The Program pays for most prescribed medications and supplies used to manage diabetes. For some medications, your prescriber needs to provide additional information to the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Program before they can be considered for coverage. The time it takes to approve these medications can vary.
- For further information on the approval process, please contact the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs at 429-7001 or 1-800-305-5026.

Information about Your Coverage

Once your registration form has been received and processed, you will receive a letter telling you when your coverage will begin and the amount of your annual family deductible. You will also receive an enrollment card to present at the pharmacy when you have prescriptions filled.

How it Works...

You must have a prescription to access medication and/or supplies under the Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program.

When you take your prescriptions to the pharmacy you must present the Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program enrollment card, which you received with confirmation of your enrollment in the Program. The cost of the prescription is billed directly to the Program except for the annual family deductible and the copayment. You are required to pay 20% of the total cost of each prescription as a copayment. The balance of the total will be applied against the annual family deductible.

When the total deductible has been paid, you will only be required to pay the copayment on your prescriptions.

What if I have to pay for a prescription?

Some circumstances may result in you paying cash for the prescription at the pharmacy - for example, if you forget your card. In such cases, you can get reimbursed for the portion the Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program would have paid. To obtain reimbursement, send your original prescription receipt, along with a completed reimbursement form, to the Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program within six months of purchase. Receipts more than six months old will not be considered for reimbursement. Reimbursement forms can be found and printed from www.nspharmacare.ca.

Traveling Outside Nova Scotia

Unless it is a medical emergency, the Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program will not pay for prescriptions filled in a pharmacy outside Nova Scotia. There is no reimbursement, emergency or otherwise, for prescriptions filled outside Canada. If you plan to travel outside the province, you should make sure that you have enough medication and supplies for your trip. We recommend you purchase health travel insurance before you depart on your trip.

Calculating Your Annual Family Deductible

Your family deductible will be calculated each year and be based on the number of people in your family and your total family income. Total family income is the sum of **line 150** of the Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment, **for each family member**, as verified by Canada Revenue Agency.

To take family size into consideration, the total family income is reduced by \$3000 for your spouse and every person in your family under the age of 18 years. This reduced amount, called the **adjusted annual family income**, is used to determine the amount of your family deductible.

You make up your own family if you are 18 years of age or older, even if you don't have a spouse or dependants and you live with your parents. This means that you need to register as your own family. Your annual (yearly) family deductible will be based on your income and that of your spouse or dependants, if any. You do not include the income of your parents.

The deductible can be as low as \$0.00, depending on the family income and family size.

The following is an example of a family of four with two incomes:

Your income	\$26,000.00
Your Spouse's income	<u>+12,000.00</u>
Total Family Income	38,000.00
Reduction for Dependants (1 spouse, 2 dependants)	- 9,000.00
Adjusted Annual Family Income	\$29,000.00
Annual Family Deductible (based on adjusted annual family income)	\$ 217.50

Our website www.nspharmacare.ca offers an electronic calculator that you can use to help determine your annual family deductible.

Claiming Deductibles and Copayments on Your Income Tax Return

Program deductibles and copayments are considered medical expenses for taxation purposes. For further information, please contact Canada Revenue Agency at 1 (800) 959-8281

Annual Registration Renewal

You are required to re-register your family by April 1st of each year. The coverage year is from April 1st to March 31st each year. A re-enrollment package is sent to each family prior to renewal. You will need to verify your total family income and the size of your family each year as requested by the Program.

What if I want to join the Nova Scotia Family Pharmacare Program instead of the Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program?

You cannot be enrolled in both the Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program and the Nova Scotia Family Pharmacare Program. However, if you are currently registered in the Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program, you have the option to switch to the Nova Scotia Family Pharmacare Program when you renew your registration for April 1st of each year. It is important to understand the differences between the two programs to determine which one provides the best coverage for you. For more information on the Nova Scotia Family Pharmacare Program, call 497-5667 or 1 (877) 330-0323 or visit the website at www.nspharmacare.ca.

For more information, please contact

By Mail

Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program
Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs
PO Box 500, Halifax, NS B3J 2S1

In Person

Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program
Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs
230 Brownlow Avenue, Dartmouth, NS

By Phone

Metro Halifax: 429-7001
Toll Free: 1 (800) 305-5026

By Internet

www.nspharmacare.ca

