
General Manitoba Pharmacare Questions

1. What is the Manitoba Pharmacare Program?

- Pharmacare provides drug cost assistance to eligible Manitobans who do not have coverage under a federal or other provincial program. Pharmacare is income based, which means a deductible is calculated based on the total adjusted family income. Once the yearly deductible has been reached through the purchase of eligible prescription drugs at a pharmacy, Pharmacare will pay 100% of eligible prescription costs for the remainder of the benefit year. The Pharmacare benefit year is April 1 to March 31 of the following year. In order to be eligible for benefits, an application must be received on or before March 31 of the current benefit year. For information on how to apply to Pharmacare please visit "[Applying for Pharmacare](#)" (See Resources on page 2 for all link details).

2. What is an Eligible Prescription Drug?

- An [eligible drug](#) is one that is covered by Pharmacare. Not all drugs are eligible. To determine if a drug is eligible for coverage under Pharmacare, please ask a pharmacist or doctor, visit the online [Drug Formulary Look Up](#) or contact the Pharmacare office directly at 204-786-7141 or 1-800-297-8099.

3. What is a Deductible?

- A deductible is a specific dollar amount that must be paid each year before Pharmacare coverage begins. The minimum deductible for Pharmacare is \$100, with no maximum deductible. Once an application has been processed, Pharmacare will send a notification letter indicating the deductible amount. To calculate a family deductible, please go to the online [Pharmacare Deductible Estimator](#).

4. What Year's Income is Used to Calculate the 2022/2023 Deductible?

- The deductible is based on Canada Revenue Agency income information from two years ago. Example: For the 2022/2023 Pharmacare benefit year, Pharmacare would use income information from the 2020 tax year.

5. Will the Pharmacist Know When a Deductible has Been Reached?

- The amount paid towards a deductible is tracked by the Drug Programs Information Network (DPIN) computer system. The system will automatically notify the pharmacist once a deductible is met. There is no requirement to submit prescription receipts or send payment for the deductible amount to Pharmacare. The DPIN system also checks each prescription against drug history to help protect Manitobans from adverse drug interactions.

6. Can a Pharmacare Deductible be Changed if a Family's Income had Dropped this Calendar Year?

- A provision is included in *The Prescription Drugs Cost Assistance Act*, which allows for an adjustment to be made to the Pharmacare deductible if a family's income is reduced by more than 10% in the 2022 calendar year.
- Families with an income change of more than 10% should complete a [2022/2023 Pharmacare Benefit Year Projected Income Worksheet](#) and return it to the benefit provider with required supporting documentation verifying the change in income. For more information, please call the Pharmacare office at 204-786-7141 or toll free at 1-800-297-8099.

7. Can a Pharmacare Deductible be Paid in Monthly Installments?

- The Deductible Installment Payment Program for Pharmacare is an option for eligible Manitobans to pay their annual Pharmacare deductible in monthly installments. This option will give Manitobans who have high monthly drug costs a way to pay their Pharmacare deductible in interest-free monthly installments as part of their Manitoba Hydro energy bill.
- The [Deductible Installment Payment Program for Pharmacare Guide](#) and [Application, Consent and Authorization Form](#) are available online, by contacting the program at 204-945-1733 (in Winnipeg) or toll free at 1-888-519-3492 (outside Winnipeg), or at Manitoba pharmacies.

8. What Happens When a Manitoba Resident Turns 18 Years of Age?

- Manitobans 18 and older are assigned their own Manitoba Health Registration number and will receive a registration certificate in the mail. A [Pharmacare Application and Consent Authorization Form](#) should be completed and sent to the Pharmacare office for processing. Once the application has been processed, Pharmacare will send a notification letter indicating the deductible amount.

9. How Will Pension Income Splitting Affect the Pharmacare Deductible for One-Time Enrolment (Option A) Clients?

- For Option A clients, Pharmacare deductibles will not be affected by pension income splitting. Pharmacare deductibles for the 2022/2023 benefit year are calculated using income from line 150 of the 2020 Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment. When receiving income information from the Canada Revenue Agency, consideration has been given to pension income splitting and procedures are in place to allow for automatic line 210 deductions when applicable.

Resources

- Applying for Pharmacare – <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/apply.html>
- Eligible drug – <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/mdbif/review.html>
- Drug Formulary Look Up – <https://web22.gov.mb.ca/eFormulary>
- Pharmacare Deductible Estimator – <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/estimator.html>
- 2015/2016 Pharmacare Benefit Year Projected Income Worksheet – <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/docs/worksheet.pdf>
- The Deductible Installment Payment Program for Pharmacare Guide – http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/docs/dippp_guide.pdf
- Application, Consent and Authorization Form – http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/docs/dippp_application.pdf
- Pharmacare Application and Consent Authorization Form – <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/docs/pharmform.pdf>