BC Diabetes Foundation

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BC Pharmacare deductible & reassessments

BC Pharmacare ("Fair Pharmacare") subsidizes the cost of many life saving & life changing medicines and devices - but not all. To find out if a drug is covered by BC Pharmacare click here. Certain drugs that are covered require a Special Authority that has to be filled out by a physician. To find out if the drug requires a Special Authority click here. Diabetes drugs that require Special Authority include linagliptin, saxagliptin, empagliflozin, rosiglitazone and pioglitazone, insulin glargine and semaglutide. Diabetes devices that require Special Authority include the Dexcom G6 CGM and Medtronic pumps.

To be eligible for BC PharmaCare registration is required. To register online click here or call 604 683-7151 (Lower Mainland) or 1-800-663-7100 (Rest of BC).

The BC Pharmacare subsidy is subject to a deductible or threshold. This threshold is based on net family income from line 23600 of tax returns two years prior. If your income this year or last year is more than 10% lower than it was two years ago it is recommended that you apply for a reassessment. The BC Pharmacare deductible resets every year on January 1.

See this table to figure out where you and your family stand.

Families with assessed income < $13,750 receive all BC Pharmacare endorsed medication and devices at no charge - they automatically qualify for a 100% Pharmacare subsidy.

Families with income in the $13,750-30,000 range immediately qualify for a 70% Pharmacare subsidy but they need to spend 5% of the difference between their income and $30,000 to qualify for a 100% subsidy. So a family earning $20,000 per year will have to pay 5% of $10,000 = $500.

Families with income >$30,000 have to spend 2.5-3.0 % of their total to get the 70% subsidy and 3.5-4.0% of their total to get 100% subsidy.

The BC Diabetes Foundation believes that the current BC Pharmacare deductible policy unfairly targets the working poor and middle-income earners with families. On 2022-Mar-30 it launched this petition in support of life saving diabetes drugs and devices (including insulin, CGMs and insulin pumps) no longer being subject to the Pharmacare deductible.