

# Financial Assistance for Prescription Drugs

BC Cancer provides standard cancer therapy drugs that are covered through Health Insurance BC. Some prescription drugs may need to be purchased from a pharmacy. Sometimes drugs need to be purchased in advance so that they are available to take before or after cancer treatment. If you need financial assistance with the cost of prescription drugs please review the following options.

- **Fair Pharmacare:** Make sure you are registered for BC's Fair PharmaCare Program. To check your registration status search your internet browser for Fair PharmaCare - Check Registration (enter your Personal Health Number). If you are not registered, the quickest way to register is online. If you would like to register by phone call toll-free: 1 800-663-7100 or 604-683-7151 (Vancouver area).
- **Income Review:** If your income has decreased by 10% or more in the past two years, consider applying for an Income Review with PharmaCare to reduce your Fair PharmaCare deductible. To learn more search online Fair PharmaCare.
- **Regular Premium Assistance or Temporary Premium Assistance** (had an unexpected change in finances) helps with cost of paying your healthcare premiums. For more information search Medical Services Plan (MSP).
- **Special Authority Drugs:** Some drugs are not fully covered without special authorization through PharmaCare. Talk with your pharmacist and ask about the process and forms required. To learn more search online PharmaCare.
- **Palliative Benefits Program:** If your doctor has registered you with the Palliative Benefits Program (Plan P) you will be eligible for certain drugs, medical supplies and products at no cost. Check with your pharmacy.
- **PharmaCare - Plan G** covers the cost of most psychiatric medications. It's available to individuals of any age who are registered with a mental health service centre and who demonstrate clinical and financial need. Both you and your doctor need to complete an application. To learn more search online PharmaCare.
- **Extended Health Benefits:** Check with your employer or other private insurer to find out whether your coverage excludes the cost of some prescription drugs and supplies or whether you need authorization and required documentation.
- **Are you receiving government benefits?** If you are receiving income assistance or disability benefits most prescription drugs and medical supplies are covered. However, you may want to check for any additional benefits or eligibility requirements. Call toll-free 1-866-866-0800. If you are receiving benefits from other agencies such as Veterans Affairs Canada or First Nations Health Authority contact the respective programs about any additional benefits they might have.
- **Canadian Cancer Society Financial Support Drug Program:** You may qualify for a subsidy to assist with the costs of some symptom management medications. To learn more call the Cancer Information Service toll-free at 1-888-939-3333.
- **Patient & Family Counselling Services** are available at your Cancer Centre. If you have an urgent financial need call your centre to make an appointment to speak with a counsellor.
- **Financial Information for Cancer Patients** booklet and **Resource Guide for Chinese Cancer (Financial Assistance)** is available in print from Patient & Family Counselling Services and Cancer Information Centres. Financial information is also available on the BC Cancer website [www.bccancer.ca](http://www.bccancer.ca) - Coping with Cancer - Practical Support.