

FSDP Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs: Financial Support Drug Program Drug Benefit List changes effective April 1, 2014

1. Why is my prescription drug not covered by the Financial Support Drug Program (FSDP)?

The FSDP is intended for the supportive care of patients who are undergoing treatment with either chemotherapy or radiation therapy in British Columbia and/or who are being prescribed treatment for pain and symptom management directly related to their cancer and cancer treatments. The prescription drugs included in the FSDP Drug Benefit List are those that are recommended by the BC Cancer Agency physicians in support of the above treatments. The prescription drugs covered by the FSDP must also be covered by BC Pharmacare, either as regular benefit items or through Special Authority approval from BC Pharmacare.

2. Why are the non-prescription drugs covered previously by the FSDP no longer included in the FSDP Drug Benefit List?

Previously, the FSDP Drug Benefit List included many non-prescription, over-the-counter, and other front store medications. After careful review of the medications patients need most in support of their cancer drug treatments, a decision was made to focus on prescription drugs most directly needed to help patients continue with their prescribed course of chemotherapy or radiation therapy treatments. This will enable coverage of some other very important, prescription medications that were not previously included in the FSDP Drug Benefit List.

It was also determined that many pharmacies in the province were declining to participate in the FSDP on behalf of their clients since the time needed for the reimbursement process through the BC Cancer Agency for non-prescription drugs was not supported through dispensing fees.

3. Who decides what drugs are covered on the FSDP Drug Benefit List?

The FSDP Drug Benefit List is reviewed approximately annually to ensure it includes the most relevant drugs recommended for support of patients undergoing cancer treatments. The review is undertaken with input from cancer doctors and pharmacists. The final decision to include drugs in the FSDP Drug Benefit List lies with the Vice-President of the Systemic Therapy Program.

How can I get coverage for a drug not included in the FSDP Drug Benefit List?

Physicians may contact the BC Cancer Agency to discuss potential additions of prescription drugs to the FSDP Drug Benefit List. Generally, it would not be anticipated that a request would be made for just one patient as an exception to the benefit list, but rather that the medication being requested be considered for any patients who are approved for benefits through the FSDP and who needs the medication in question. Physicians may send an e-mail to bcca_eap@bccancer.bc.ca making requests for additions to the FSDP Drug Benefit List.