

## **Information for Financial Support Drug Program Clients**

### **What is the Financial Support Drug Program?**

The British Columbia Cancer Agency (BC Cancer Agency) and the Canadian Cancer Society, BC & Yukon Division, jointly operate the **Financial Support Drug Program (FSDP)**. People who are receiving active cancer treatment, are registered with the BC Cancer Agency, and meet the financial eligibility criteria are able to purchase **symptom control medications** at a subsidized rate through this program.

### **Who qualifies for the Financial Support Drug Program?**

You may qualify for the program if:

- you are a resident of British Columbia with a diagnosis of cancer,
- you are currently or will soon be receiving active cancer treatment,
- you are registered with the BC Cancer Agency,
- you are registered with Fair PharmaCare,
- your supportive care medications are dispensed from a BC community pharmacy, and
- you meet the financial eligibility criteria for the program.

### **How do I apply?**

You can apply for the Financial Support Program by:

- contacting your closest Canadian Cancer Society office or Lodge for an application
- picking up an application from your treatment centre
- phoning the Cancer Information Service at 1-888-939-3333
- downloading an application from the Canadian Cancer Society website: [cancer.ca](http://cancer.ca)

### **What if I need help to complete my application form?**

If you need help completing your application form, please contact the Cancer Information Service at 1-888-939-3333, from Monday to Friday, and we would be glad to assist you. If you speak a language other than English, you can call this same number and ask to speak to an interpreter who can help to answer your questions.

### **How will I know if I am approved?**

You will receive a letter from the Canadian Cancer Society informing you as to whether or not your application has been approved. If you are approved, this letter will state your coverage amount and will also provide you with more details about the program.

### **How do I receive coverage?**

If you are approved, you will receive a 'Letter of Notification' to show your pharmacist which outlines your coverage amount. Your pharmacist will use this document to process your prescription and make the appropriate deductions from your bill. It is important that you present your pharmacist with a summary of your health insurance to ensure you utilize all of the programs you have access to. If you have questions about other methods of medication coverage, you can contact your health insurance provider, or call the Cancer Information Service at 1-888-939-3333 for more information.

### **Which medications are covered in the program?**

The Financial Support Drug Program provides coverage for symptom control medications that may be required while undergoing active cancer treatment.

Drugs excluded from BC Pharmacare will not be covered and prescriptions filled outside of BC are not eligible for the program. If you require drugs that are eligible for coverage but that require BC Pharmacare Special Authority, you doctor must obtain Pharmacare approval before you fill the prescription.

The Financial Support Drug Program does not include non-prescription/over-the-counter medications, ostomy supplies, needles & syringes, smoking cessation medications, or medication administration devices such as aerochambers.

An up to date list of covered medications can be found online at: <http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/pharmacy-site/Documents/FSDP%20documents/FSDP%20Benefit%20Drug%20List.pdf>

The BC Cancer Agency makes all the FSDP drug benefit coverage decisions, and these decisions are final.

### **How much coverage will I receive?**

Based on your eligibility, you will receive a percentage of coverage for eligible symptom control medications.

### **How long will my coverage last?**

Your coverage will come to an end when you complete active treatment or when your one-year period is up, whichever comes first.

### **What if I am still in active treatment after 1 year?**

After 1 year you can re-apply to the program if you are still in active treatment. Please use the regular application process but include a letter from your oncologist indicating that active treatment is ongoing.

### **How can I provide feedback?**

If you have feedback or questions regarding the application and assessment process, please contact the Canadian Cancer Society Support Programs Coordinator who sent you your Financial Support Drug Program approval package. You can also phone the Cancer Information Service at 1-888-939-3333. If you have feedback related to the program, benefits, the BC Cancer Agency, or the ongoing administration of the program, please contact the BC Cancer Agency Provincial Pharmacy Office at 1-800-663-3333 Extension 672515.