

# Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs

## The Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program

May 2006

The information in this booklet is subject to change and does not replace the Health Services and Insurance Act

### **For Program Questions**

Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program  
Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs  
PO Box 500  
Halifax, NS B3J 2S1

7 Spectacle Lake Drive  
Dartmouth, NS B3B 1X7

Telephone: (902) 429-6565  
Toll Free: 1 (800) 305-5026  
[www.gov.ns.ca/health/pharmacare](http://www.gov.ns.ca/health/pharmacare)

### **For Health Card Questions**

Medical Services Insurance  
PO Box 500  
Halifax, NS B3J 2S1

Telephone: (902) 496-7008  
Toll Free: 1 (800) 563-8880  
[www.gov.ns.ca/health/msi.htm](http://www.gov.ns.ca/health/msi.htm)

### **For Income Tax Notice of Assessment**

Canada Revenue Agency  
Tax Centre  
PO Box 12077, Station A  
St. John's, NL A1B 3Z2

Toll Free: 1 (800) 959-8281  
[www.car-arc.gc.ca](http://www.car-arc.gc.ca)

About five per cent of Nova Scotians have diabetes; many are not insured for the medications and supplies they need to manage their condition. If a person with diabetes cannot afford the medications and supplies they need, there is a greater risk of complications. This Program is designed to reduce that risk.

## **The Program**

The Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program is a provincial drug plan that helps to pay for most prescribed medications and supplies used to manage diabetes. In addition to the drug plan, the Program includes information about the importance of managing your diabetes.

People enrolled in the Program will receive a Program Card that must be presented to the pharmacy at the time of purchase to be eligible for benefits under the Program.

## **Who is Eligible**

If you have diabetes and no drug coverage, this Program may help you with the cost of your diabetes medications and supplies.

You may register for this Program if you:

- are a permanent Nova Scotia resident
- have a valid Nova Scotia Health Card
- are under the age of 65 years
- have a confirmed diagnosis of diabetes
- agree to family income verification through Canada Revenue Agency (Notice of Assessment) each year
- agree to provide family size information each year
- do not have drug coverage through Veterans Affairs Canada, First Nations and Inuit Health, or any other drug insurance plan that covers medications and supplies for diabetes
- agree to provide information about your diabetes when you register

## The Value to You

Government will assist you with the cost of your diabetes medications and supplies needed to manage your condition. The amount of assistance you receive will depend on your family income and the size of your family. Everyone registered in the Program will be expected to pay:

- 20 per cent of the cost of prescriptions for medications or supplies covered under the Program. This part of the cost is called the **copayment**.
- an **annual family deductible**, that is based on family income and family size. This deductible begins on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. It must be completely paid before reimbursement begins. The copayment does not count towards the deductible. (More information is provided under “Family Deductible.”)

### Medications and Supplies

#### The Program covers...

- Insulin
- Oral blood glucose lowering drugs (anti-hyperglycemics)
- Blood glucose test strips
- Needles
- Lancets
- Syringes

#### The Program does not cover...

- medications or supplies taken or used for other medical conditions, such as blood pressure or heart problems
- blood glucose monitors, insulin pumps or pump supplies
- diabetes medications or supplies that are not listed in the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Formulary (You can discuss this with your doctor or pharmacist, or view the formulary on our website at [www.gov.ns.ca/health/pharmacare](http://www.gov.ns.ca/health/pharmacare).)

#### Coverage for exception status drugs

- The Program pays for most prescribed medications and supplies used to manage diabetes. For some medications, your physician needs to provide additional information to the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Program before they can be considered for coverage. The time it takes to approve these medications can vary.
- For further information on the approval process, please contact the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs at 429-6565 or 1-800-305-5026.

## **How to Register**

If you would like to register for this Program, please complete a registration form available at the following locations:

- Doctors' offices
- Pharmacies
- Diabetes Centres
- Nova Scotia Office of the Canadian Diabetes Association
- Pharmacare Programs' Office
- On-line at [www.gov.ns.ca/health/pharmacare](http://www.gov.ns.ca/health/pharmacare)

## **Information about Your Coverage**

Once your registration form has been received and processed, you will receive a letter telling you when your coverage will begin, and the amount of your annual family deductible. You will also receive a Program Card to present to the pharmacy at the time your prescriptions for medications and/or supplies are filled.

## **How it Works...**

You must have a prescription to access medication and/or supplies under the Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program.

When you take your prescriptions to the pharmacy you must present your Program Card. The cost of the prescription is billed directly to the Program except for the annual family deductible and the copayment. You are required to pay 20% of the total cost of each prescription as a copayment. The balance of the total will be applied against the annual family deductible.

When the total deductible has been paid, you will only be required to pay the copayment on your prescriptions.

Some circumstances may result in you paying cash for the prescription at the pharmacy. Should this occur, send your original prescription receipt, along with a completed reimbursement form, to the Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program. Reimbursement forms can be found and printed from [www.gov.ns.ca/health/pharmacare](http://www.gov.ns.ca/health/pharmacare).

## **Annual Registration Renewal**

You will need to verify your total family income and the size of your family each year as requested by the Program. You don't need to re-register each year.

## Helping to Manage Your Diabetes

Education leading to self-care is key to helping reduce the risks of complications due to diabetes. Once you are registered in the Program, you will receive information about the importance of managing your diabetes and the benefits of leading a healthy, active lifestyle.

### Calculating Your Annual Family Deductible

Your family deductible will be calculated each year and be based on the number of people in your family and your total family income. Total family income is the sum of **line 150** of the Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment, **for each family member**, as verified by Canada Revenue Agency.

To take family size into consideration, the total family income is reduced by \$3000 for your spouse and every person in your family under the age of 18 years. This reduced amount, called the **adjusted annual family income**, is used to determine the amount of your family deductible.

You make up your own family if you are 18 years of age or older, even if you don't have a spouse or dependants and you live with your parents. This means that you need to register as your own family. Your annual (yearly) family deductible will be based on your income and that of your spouse or dependants, if any. You do not include the income of your parents.

The deductible can be as low as \$0.00, depending on the family income and family size.

The following is an example of a family of four with two incomes:

Your income	\$26,000.00
Your Spouse's income	<u>+12,000.00</u>
<b>Total Family Income</b>	<b>38,000.00</b>
Reduction for Dependants (1 spouse, 2 dependants)	- 9,000.00
<b>Adjusted Annual Family Income</b>	<b>\$29,000.00</b>
Annual Family Deductible (based on adjusted annual family income)	\$ 217.50

Our website [www.gov.ns.ca/health/pharmacare](http://www.gov.ns.ca/health/pharmacare) offers an electronic calculator that you can use to help determine your annual family deductible.

### Claiming Deductibles and Copayments on Your Income Tax Return

Program deductibles and copayments are considered medical expenses for taxation purposes. For further information, please contact Canada Revenue Agency at 1 (800) 959-8281

## **Travelling Outside Nova Scotia**

Unless it is a medical emergency, the Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program will not pay for prescriptions filled in a pharmacy outside Nova Scotia. If you plan to travel outside the province, you should make sure that you have enough medication and supplies for your trip. We recommend you purchase health travel insurance before you depart on your trip.

## **For more information, please contact**

### **By Mail**

Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program  
Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs  
PO Box 500, Halifax, NS B3J 2S1

### **In Person**

Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program  
Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs  
7 Spectacle Lake Drive, Dartmouth, NS

### **By Phone**

Metro Halifax: 429-6566  
Toll Free: 1 (800) 305-5026

