

Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program

May 2006

What is the purpose of the Program?

Diabetes, if unmanaged, can lead to complications such as heart disease, kidney failure, blindness and amputation. About 5 per cent of Nova Scotians have diabetes; many are not insured for the medications and supplies that can prevent or delay the onset of complications. Simply, if a person with diabetes can't afford the medications and supplies they need, then there is a greater risk of developing complications.

This Program seeks to reduce that risk by assisting with the cost of diabetes medications and supplies, and promoting a healthy, active lifestyle.

What diabetes medications and supplies are covered under this Program?

The Program covers insulin, oral blood glucose lowering drugs (anti-hyperglycemics), blood glucose test strips, needles, lancets, and syringes that are listed on the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Formulary. The formulary can be viewed on our website at www.gov.ns.ca/health/pharmacare.

Who is eligible for the Program?

Nova Scotians who are under age 65 and have a medical diagnosis of diabetes and no drug coverage are eligible for this Program.

Do you need to apply?

Eligible Nova Scotians do not need to apply, but they do need to register for the Program. Once registered, they will receive a Program Card that must be presented to the pharmacy when they use the Program.

How can people register?

Registration forms and information booklets are available on-line at www.gov.ns.ca/health/pharmacare, or by calling the Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program at 424-6565 in the Halifax area, or toll-free at 1-800-305-5026.

Forms and booklets are available at doctors' offices, pharmacies, and Diabetes Centres across the province, and the Nova Scotia Office of the Canadian Diabetes Association.

Will people need to pay anything?

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 1st of each year. It must be completely paid before reimbursement begins. The copayment does **not** count towards the deductible.)

How does the Program work?

People enrolled in the Program will need a prescription for their diabetes medications and supplies. The copayment and deductible will be collected by the pharmacy. Once the deductible is paid in full, you will only be required to pay the copayment. Other eligible costs will be billed directly to the Program.

When does the Program start?

You can register at anytime. The Program started January 1, 2006. This means that only eligible prescriptions on or after that date will be considered for reimbursement under the Program.

If a person is found eligible for coverage under this Program, will there be reimbursement for the amount that person already paid for drugs and supplies this year?

Unfortunately, this is not possible. Coverage under this Program will begin with Program implementation.

How much did it cost to develop this Program?

\$2.5 million has been allocated in the 2005–06 fiscal year to design and roll-out this Program to eligible Nova Scotians. The new Program builds on existing Programs and initiatives that involve the care of those with diabetes and ongoing work on chronic disease management.

The Program will be phased in over time and \$2.5 million is the beginning of an \$8–9 million Program.

How many Nova Scotians will benefit from this Program?

We estimate that between 3,000 and 5,000 Nova Scotians will be eligible for coverage under this Program.

For more information, please contact**By Mail**

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In Person

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By Phone

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