

Exception Drug Status Program

Prescription drugs are covered if they are listed in the provincial formulary. Certain drugs are reviewed and recommended by the Drug Advisory Committee of Saskatchewan for coverage under the Exception Drug Status (EDS) Program. All recommendations must be approved by the Minister of Health. To apply for coverage under this Program, you and your physician will need to complete and submit the appropriate application and medical information for the Minister of Health to review.

EDS Application Process

- Physicians, dentists, duly qualified optometrists (or authorized office staff), nurse practitioners and pharmacists may apply for EDS.
- Requests can be submitted by telephone, by mail or by fax. A toll-free line with an electronic message system is available exclusively for requests on a 24-hour basis. The telephone number to access this line is 1-800-667-2549; the Drug Plan EDS Unit fax number is (306) 798-1089.
- The following information is required to process all EDS requests: patient name, patient Health Services Number (9 digits), name of drug, diagnosis* relevant to use of drug, prescriber name and phone number.
- Requests are processed daily on a continuous basis.
- Patients are notified by letter if coverage has been approved and the time period for which coverage has been approved.
- If a request has been denied, letters are sent to the patient and prescriber notifying them of the reason for the denial. In most cases, the Drug Plan requires more information to determine the patient's eligibility for coverage, and will reconsider coverage at such time as further information is received.
- If the drug requested is not a benefit under the Drug Plan, the patient and prescriber are notified. Payment for the medication is the responsibility of the patient in these cases. It is important to note that not all medications currently available on the market in Canada are benefits under the Saskatchewan Drug Plan or under the EDS Program of the Drug Plan.
- The majority of EDS requests are routinely backdated 30 days from the time the Drug Plan receives the request. Provision can be made for further backdating of EDS coverage on a case-by-case basis by staff in Pharmaceutical Services Division. However, there is no provision or backdating further than one year from the current date.
- Certain products may be granted EDS for non-approved indications. This is the case only when the DACS has reviewed evidence to demonstrate safety and efficacy and the prescriber is aware the drug is being prescribed for a non-approved indication.

If you are approved for EDS coverage by the Minister of Health, the Extended Health Care Plan may cover the cost. Please submit a copy of the approval letter to Canada Life by fax or email:

Fax: (204) 946-7664

Email: sdppharmacare@canadalife.com

Be sure to include your Plan number and Member ID on the letter before you send it. This information can be found on your Canada Life pay-direct drug card.

If you do not live in Saskatchewan but still require coverage of a drug on the Saskatchewan EDS Program, your physician can still complete the application and send it to Canada Life for review instead of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health. You can fax or email the application to:

Fax: (204) 946-7664

Email: cldrug.services@canadalife.com

Be sure to include your Plan number and Member ID on the letter before you send it. This information can be found on your Canada Life pay-direct drug card.

If you have any questions, please contact Canada Life at 1-800-957-9777.