

Important changes to your drug plan

Effective September 1, 2016

Policy Number: **43222**

WHAT'S NEW

Effective **September 1, 2016**, your drug plan will include lowest cost alternative pricing with a 15% markup cap for non-Pharmacare drugs and a dispensing fee cap of \$10 on all drugs.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Lowest Cost Alternative Pricing

Our lowest cost pricing approach selects the most cost-effective drug treatment within a therapeutic class and designates it as the “reference drug.” In this case, if a doctor prescribes a drug for you and it is more expensive than the reference drug, then the plan will only reimburse you up to the price of the reference drug. This is usually the generic version, but not always.

Pharmacist markup

Like most retail businesses, the pharmacy applies a markup when they sell the medication. The plan will be limiting the mark-up to 15% for the pharmacies.

Dispensing fee

In addition to the cost of the drug, the pharmacy charges the customer a dispensing fee when they fill the prescription. The plan will limit the dispensing fee to \$10 per drug.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If you are currently taking a brand-name drug or are prescribed one, ask your pharmacist for the lowest cost alternative of the drug. If an alternative or generic version is not available, your drug plan will cover the brand name drug.

If for medical reasons you cannot take the alternative or generic drug, please provide us with a letter from your doctor and we will cover the eligible amount of the brand name drug.

Can't find your ID card? Sign in at www.caresnet.ca. From your CARESnet account you can print, email or save a copy of your Pacific Blue Cross ID card. Or, call us and we'll mail a card to you.

LEARN MORE

Visit the advice centre at our website to learn about low cost alternative drugs with the following link: www.pac.bluecross.ca/advicecentre/story/low-cost-alt-drugs.

Compare pharmacy prices of low cost alternative, generic and brand name prescriptions, including dispensing fees, at www.pharmacycompass.ca.

Need more help? Contact us at 604 419-2000 or toll-free at 1 888 275-4672.