

*Posted May 1, 2015*

## **Saskatchewan Drug Plan Information**

### **Saskatchewan Special Support Program (SSP)**

The Special Support Program (SSP) was introduced by Saskatchewan health services in 2002 to help people who have high prescription drug costs in relation to their income. Saskatchewan residents must apply to the SSP to receive coverage under the plan.

Saskatchewan Health Services determines your family's deductible and co-payment amounts for prescription drugs based on your family's annual adjusted income. Income adjustments are made by deducting \$3,500 for each dependent child under age 18 from your combined annual family income. Your family's co-payment amount is determined by the amount that your family drug costs exceed 3.4% of your adjusted combined family income.

### **There are two types of SSP Applications:**

1. The Special Support Annual Application Form, and
2. The Special Support – CRA Application/Consent Form (one time).

The annual application must be completed each year. The CRA Application/Consent Form ensures automated renewal so that families are not required to re-apply to the SSP every year. When the CRA Application/Consent Form is completed, an SSP approval letter will automatically be sent each year when income tax is filed.

SSP Application Forms are available at any Saskatchewan pharmacy, or on line at

One time Application: <http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/13/16616-dp-special-support-program-cra-app-consent-sidea-he264.pdf>

Annual Application: <http://publications.gov.sk.ca/documents/13/249-dp-special-support-program-annual-app-sideb-he263.pdf>

### **Receiving your Approval Letter**

Once SSP has received and processed your application, they will send you an SSP Approval Letter. The SSP Approval Letter will state your deductible and co-payment amount for your family's prescription drugs for the year.

### **You may be asked by Great-West Life to provide your SSP Approval Letter**

On 3sHealth's behalf, Great-West Life reviews all prescription drug reimbursements. Once you and your family reach \$1,200 in drug claims in a year, a copy of your SSP approval letter will be requested. You will be given 30 days from the date of the letter to provide Great-West Life with your SSP approval letter.

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**What happens if I don't submit the approval letter in 30 days?**

If you do not respond to Great-West Life, your prescription drug coverage will be suspended until Great-West Life receives your SSP approval letter. Your coverage will not be terminated; it will only be suspended. If you have a pay direct drug card and your pharmacist receives the message "card terminated", please be assured that your coverage is not terminated. Your eligible claims will be honored when your SSP approval letter is received by Great-West Life.

**You can submit your approval letter by:**

- Mailing it to Great-West Life with your completed claim form.
- E-mailing it to 3sHealth at [ebp@3shealth.ca](mailto:ebp@3shealth.ca)
- Faxing it to 3sHealth at 306.347.5910

Always include your Group Number 335663 and your Benefit ID Number on your SSP approval letter before submitting it.

Once your family has reached your deductible amount through the SSP your claims will be paid first by Saskatchewan health services. This will happen automatically at the pharmacy at the time of purchase. Any unpaid portion may then be submitted to Great-West Life for consideration.

Although this process may seem inconvenient, these measures are in place to help make certain the 3sHealth Extended Health Care Plan remains financially viable for the long term. By plan members making application to the SSP it ensures only the actual claims costs attributable to the 3sHealth Plans, are paid by Great-West Life on behalf of the 3sHealth Plans.

**Saskatchewan Health Changes Eligibility Requirements for the Seniors' Drug Plan**

Effective July 1, 2015, Saskatchewan residents will be eligible for the province's Seniors' Drug Plan if they are at least 65 years of age and making no more than \$65,515 – down from the current income threshold of \$80,255. Under the Saskatchewan Drug Plan, eligible seniors pay up to \$20 per prescription for drugs listed on the Saskatchewan Formulary and those approved under Exception Drug Status.