

March 29, 2004



TO: ALL STAFF

RE: British Columbia Dispensing Fees – Update

You can help control your health expenses and plan costs by educating your employees on the range of Dispensing fees that pharmacies charge.

With health and trend factors running around 20% per year, even small steps that individual employees take can help reduce not only their personal out-of-pocket expenses, but also your overall benefit cost.

Some independents, such as **Peoples Drug Mart**, **Pharmasave**, and **Shoppers Drug Mart**, operate under a chain banner but are independently owned and operated. Fees do vary by Pharmacy and even corporate owned chain stores will vary by location, depending on competition.

Independents	\$10.50
Canada Safeway	\$8.60
Costco	\$5.48
London Drugs	\$7.79
Meditrust	\$6.88
Overwaitea	\$7.55
Peoples Drug Mart	\$8.60

Pharmasave	\$9.80
Pharmx Rexall	\$9.80
Superstore	\$5.48
Save On Foods and Drugs	\$7.99
Shoppers Drug Mart	\$10.60
Wal-Mart	\$5.48
Zellers	\$6.99

Note that dispensing fees are only one consideration in selecting a pharmacy. Active involvement and support by the pharmacist in counseling, generic substitution, therapeutic substitution, Drug Utilization Reviews, disease state management protocols, etc., are also important factors.

You need to remember, however that dispensing fees can represent about 25% of the total prescription drug cost. Ingredient cost controls (generics, formularies, DUR, DIN price adjudication) are also cost containment issues that you may want to consider when having your prescription filled.

Yours sincerely,

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