

Information about the Financial Support Drug Program

WHAT IS THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT DRUG PROGRAM?

The British Columbia Cancer Agency (BC Cancer Agency) and Canadian Cancer Society, BC & Yukon Division, jointly operate the **Financial Support Drug Program (FSDP)**. People who are receiving active cancer treatment, are registered with the BC Cancer Agency and are in financial need are able to purchase symptom control medications at a subsidized rate through this program.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT DRUG PROGRAM?

You may qualify for the program if you are:

- A resident of British Columbia with a diagnosis of cancer,
- currently or will soon be receiving active cancer treatment,
- registered with the BC Cancer Agency,
- registered with Fair PharmaCare,
- supportive care medications are dispensed from a BC community pharmacy and
- in financial need.

HOW DO I APPLY?

You can apply for the Financial Support Program by:

- contacting your local Canadian Cancer Society office for an application
- picking up an application from your treatment centre
- downloading an application from the Canadian Cancer Society website

WHAT IF I NEED HELP TO COMPLETE MY APPLICATION FORM?

If you need help completing your application form, please contact the Cancer Information Service at 1 888 939-3333 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday to Friday, and we would be glad to assist you. Your questions can be answered in English or French. For other languages, we provide an interpreter.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF I AM APPROVED?

We will send you a letter to let you know whether your application has been approved. If you are approved, this letter will state your coverage amount and also provide you with more details about the program.

HOW DO I RECEIVE COVERAGE?

If you are approved, you will receive a 'Letter of Notification' to show your pharmacist, which outlines your coverage amount. Your pharmacist will use this document to process your prescription and make the appropriate deductions from your bill. It is important that you present your pharmacist with a summary of your health insurance to ensure you utilize all of the programs to which you have access. If you have questions about other

methods of medication coverage, you can contact your provider or call the Cancer Information Service at the number listed above for more information.

WHICH MEDICATIONS ARE COVERED IN THE PROGRAM?

The Financial Support Drug Program provides coverage for symptom control medications that may be required while undergoing active cancer treatment. Drugs excluded from BC Pharmacare will not be covered and prescriptions filled outside of BC are not eligible for the program. If you require drugs that are eligible for coverage but that require BC Pharmacare Special Authority, your doctor must obtain Pharmacare approval before you fill the prescription.

Non- prescription medication must be accompanied by a doctor's note in order to be covered. The Financial Support Drug Program does not include ostomy supplies, needles & syringes, aerochambers or other medication administration devices. The program does not cover smoking cessation medications. An up to date list of covered medications can be found online:

<http://www.bccancer.bc.ca/RS/CommunitiesOncologyNetwork/Emergency+Aid+Drug+Program/eadp.htm>.

The BC Cancer Agency makes all the FSDP drug benefit coverage decisions and these decisions are final.

HOW MUCH COVERAGE WILL I RECEIVE?

Based on your eligibility, you will receive a percentage of coverage for eligible symptom control medications.

HOW LONG WILL MY COVERAGE LAST?

Your coverage will come to an end when you complete active treatment or when your one-year period is up, whichever comes first.

WHAT IF I AM STILL IN ACTIVE TREATMENT AFTER 1 YEAR?

After 1 year, you can re-apply to the program if you are still in active treatment. Please use the regular application process but include a letter from your oncologist indicating that active treatment is ongoing.

HOW CAN I PROVIDE FEEDBACK?

If you have feedback or questions regarding the application and assessment process, please contact the Canadian Cancer Society Regional Office in your area and speak to the Regional Coordinator who is responsible for the Financial Support Program.

If you have feedback or questions related to the BC Cancer Agency and the ongoing administration of the program, please contact the BC Cancer Agency Provincial Pharmacy Office at 1-800-663-3333 x 6277.