PHARMACY ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

Hello PAS Members,

This email confirms that the Economics Committee of PAS (supported by the PAS Board of Directors) has concluded an agreement-in-principle with the Ministry of Health (MOH) relating to compensation for pharmacist services, which takes effect on March 1, 2021 for a term of one year.

The MOH will be referencing the new agreement in a news release coming out on Monday, February 22nd. Contracts will be sent to pharmacies shortly for signature.

Until then, please keep this information confidential.

The contract provides a total overall increase of 2.7% in professional fees for a one-year agreement effective March 1, 2021, comprising:

- The maximum professional/dispensing fee increases by 25 cents from $11.60 to $11.85 per prescription, and takes effect on March 1st, 2021.
- The Flu Immunization Administration Fee for the 2020-2021 season is $15, paid retroactively to October 19, 2020, the beginning of this year's season—a short-term $2 increase that recognizes one-time pandemic related costs. *Details on when and how the retroactive payment will be made will be communicated at a later date.*
- For the 2021-2022 flu season, the Flu Immunization Administration Fee is $14, an increase of $1 over the previously contracted fee of $13.
- The Therapeutic Drug Substitution program—which applies to particular exceptional situations for drug shortages defined by the Registrar, will now have a billable fee of $18 when a pharmacist makes these defined substitutions. *Note: There are currently no molecules noted under this program - it will become available as needed once the condition of the shortage meets SCPP bylaw requirements, and will be communicated to you by the Registrar.*

COVID19 Vaccination Fee *

**please note that this is not part of the noted 2.7% increase, it is in addition to the elements above.*

- A COVID-19 Vaccination Administration fee of $20 has been confirmed, however, this applies only during pandemic conditions. Provision of syringes from the supply procured by the federal government for the provinces has been confirmed for use by pharmacists administering COVID vaccines. *We expect to provide much more information on the logistics of this service in the coming days and weeks.*

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Other elements of note:

- To allow pharmacists to administer additional publicly funded vaccinations when approved to do so, the contract wording includes broader language for covering the "vaccination fee", with the following qualifications:
    - The COVID vaccination administration fee, at $20 under exceptional circumstances, is separate from this provision.
    - The MOH will still need to determine and provide approval for any new publicly funded vaccines provided by pharmacists.

The following items have been deferred for future discussion:

- As PAS requested, the MOH has agreed to defer listing of Methadose/Metadol D etc. until Spring 2022. We have alerted SCPP and will further clarify the related issues and deadlines for compliance with the new compounding standards.

- The MOH and PAS have agreed to begin discussions to modernize the Maintenance Medication List and Days Supply Policy. These discussions will begin this Spring, but no change will occur during the term of this contract.

- High-cost drugs and markup system and cap.

- PASs proposal on new practice and funding models for broader therapeutic substitution, medication assessments and opioid therapy.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Dawn Martin, CEO, Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan (PAS) by email at Dawn.Martin@skpharmacists.ca or call Dawn at 306.359.7277.

Thank you for your continuing support and tireless patient care. As always, we will keep working hard on your behalf during these challenging times.

George Furneaux, Chair