

RxFiles

c/o Saskatoon City Hospital
701 Queen Street, Saskatoon, SK Canada S7K 0M7
TEL: (306) 655-8506 FAX: (306) 655-7980
Email: regierl@rxfiles.ca Internet: www.RxFiles.ca



RxFiles - NEW PHYSICIAN ORIENTATION

RxFiles

Physician Advisors

(Program &/or Local)

Dr. T. Laubscher

(Family physician, Saskatoon)

Dr. M. Jutras

(Family physician, Saskatoon)

Dr. J. Alport

(Family physician, Regina)

Dr. S. Bester

(Family physician, Regina)

Dr. T. Smith-Windsor

(Family physician, Prince Albert)

Dr. Michael Howard-Tripp

(CPSS, Saskatoon)

Dr. S. Oleksinski

(Family physician, SMA
delegate, Prince Albert)

Pharmacist & Other Advisors

Dr. Y. Shevchuk

(College of Pharmacy, U. of S.
Saskatoon, SK)

Ms. P. Komonoski

(Nurse Practitioner, Saskatoon)

Ms. A. Laternus

(Saskatchewan Health, Regina)

Dr. B. Schuster

(Pharmacist, Regina, SK)

Ms. P. Karlson

(Pharmacist, Battlefords, SK)

Ms Janet Harding

(Pharmacist, SHR, Saskatoon, SK)

Mr. L. Regier

(RxFiles Program Coordinator)
Saskatoon, SK)

The RxFiles Academic Detailing Program

- seeks to provide objective, balanced drug information & education
- provides printed drug resource materials
 - Newsletters, Q&As,
 - Drug Comparison Charts
- provides *academic detailing* or short physician office visits to discuss highlights from evidence, clinical experience and areas of question

Other Sources of Drug Information/Availability/Assistance

- **CPS** (Canadian manufacturer's monographs & other information)
- **Saskatchewan Formulary** (drug availability & coverage in SK)
- **Online resources:** www.cma.ca; www.healthknowledgecentral.org; www.e-therapeutics.ca;
SK – Online Web Portal: http://web.mac.com/malees/Primary_Care_Portal/EBM.html
SHIRP.ca: online resources for SK health professionals www.shirp.ca
- **medSask a provincial drug information service, U of S** <http://medsask.usask.ca/>
Saskatoon: (306) 966-6340; Saskatchewan: 1-800-667-DIAL (3425)
- **Saskatchewan Poison Centre: 1-866-454-1212** (24hrs/day; 7days/week)

What's in an RxFiles Drug Comparison Chart

- names, dosages, comparative advantages / disadvantages, costs, evidence, and practical “pearls” for best practice drug therapy decision making.

Drug Plan Items



- Computerized – Real-time – System
 - Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP) <http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/pip>
- Coverage
 - Coverage vs availability
 - Generic interchangeability common & automatic unless “no-sub”
 - Full Coverage versus EDS (see other side)
 - Maximum allowable cost (MAC)
- Duration of script:
 - Maximum 1 year
 - Subject to clinical judgement
 - Long-term / ongoing prescriptions
 - 34day; 60day; 100day lists (See formulary)
- Trial Rx Program
 - Offers option of “sample” starter option for various drugs, including antihypertensives, antidepressants and gastrointestinal medications.
 - Other newer medications may also be available as industry samples

Prescription Regulations



- Narcotic & Controlled Drugs
 - Prescription Review Program (drug use monitoring)
- Other Prescription Drugs
- Over the Counter Drugs (may be covered for Indian Affairs - NIHB)

DRUG PLAN COVERAGE IN SASKATCHEWAN

I. NIHB (NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFIT) – or “First Nations Health”

- Registered Indian and Inuit are covered through the federal NIHB plan. Covered medications are provided at no charge. Certain drugs require prior approval for coverage (similar to “EDS” in SK). **Phone: 1-800-580-0950**
 - Formulary Status Symbols in RxFiles Chart:  =prior approval for NIHB  =not covered by NIHB

II. SPDP (SASKATCHEWAN PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN COVERAGE)

- A. Drug Status:**
- Full Formulary Status Coverage - Formulary published yearly (July)
 - Exception Drug Status (EDS) coverage –  drugs only covered if meeting EDS criteria
 - Physicians must phone, fax or write stated criteria and request coverage from the drug plan (pharmacists may phone if reason for EDS request is stated) **{General Drug Plan Inquiries: 1-800-667-7578}**
 - EDS - Toll free 1-800-667-2549
 - Non-Formulary symbol in RxFiles charts – 

B. Levels of Coverage

Social Assistance Clients (Supplementary Health Cards)

Plan 1:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adults pay \$2.00 per prescriptionChildren under 18 years of age receive prescriptions at no charge.This plan is always initiated by a social worker.
Plan 2:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adults on plan 1 who need several medications on a long-term basis may apply for this plan, which covers all prescriptions at no charge; does not cover any OTC medications.
Plan 3:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Is available for people who can not afford any medication cost at all the drug plan pays for everything including some OTCs that are not listed in the formulary i.e. docusate sodium, dimenhydrinate, acetaminophen. Plan 3 people are mainly nursing home or group home residents.

Age ≥65 & ≤14:

- Children ≤ 14 automatically qualify for single prescription maximum of \$20 for fully covered and approved EDS drugs. Seniors ≥ age 65 with a net income under \$75,480 may apply for coverage under the Seniors' Drug Plan to qualify for single prescription maximum of \$20 for fully covered and approved EDS drugs.

Family Health Benefit Program:

- Families who received the Saskatchewan Child Benefit or SK Employment Supplement are eligible for a lower family drug plan deductible. Children in these families have total costs of all prescriptions paid for and adults have a \$200 semi-annual deductible instead of an 850.00 semi-annual deductible.

Palliative Care Coverage:

- A doctor may submit an **application form** for a person whom has been diagnosed with a terminal illness. All regular Formulary, EDS drugs, and some OTC items such as laxatives are covered. **{Inquiries: (306) 787-8744}**

SAIL Programs (Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living):

- special programs are available to make drugs available at no charge to patients registered in the following:
 - Paraplegia Program, Chronic End stage Renal Disease Program, Cystic Fibrosis Program, Ostomy program, Nebulizer machines for Children under aged 6 on either Plan 1,2 or 3 **{Inquiries: 1-800-667-7581}**
- Specialist physicians must make referral to these programs

Special Support Program:

When a person or family's drug costs are high relative to their income, they may qualify for special support.

- applies when benefit drug costs exceed 3.4 % of adjusted family income (e.g. \$1,700 for income of \$50,000)
- a **Special Support Application Form** must be completed. Forms are available from the drug plan (online) or local pharmacies. Applications are reviewed annually. But if a form for the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) consent is given, the renewal process will be completed automatically each year.

III. Private Health Insurance

- Many individuals may have additional private health coverage. These plans often follow the provincial formulary in terms of what is covered (including approval of EDS drugs).
- E.g. Blue Cross, MSI