

Keeping you informed

Benefit plan news for People Corporation plan sponsors

New agreement between the Association Québécoise des Pharmaciens Propriétaires, insurers and third party payers

Over the past couple of years the Association Québécoise des Pharmaciens Propriétaires (AQPP), insurers, and third-party payers have been in discussions to create a new collaborative agreement. The AQPP is the provincial association of pharmacist-owners representing approximately 2,065 pharmacist owners of the 1,906 pharmacies in Quebec. The effective date of the agreement is Feb 1, 2020 through to March 31, 2023.

Highlights of the agreement include:

Insurance companies and third party payers will have the authority to provide price comparison tools on secure sites*

Prices can be displayed at an aggregate level to reflect the total price. Itemized costs such as pharmacy

dispensing fees will continue to be listed separately on receipts.

- Dispensing fees for maintenance medications are regulated. The same dispensing fee will be applied on the purchase transaction regardless of the amount of drugs being dispensed. Previously, a higher dispensing fee could be charged for a 90-day supply, than a 30-day supply of medication.
- Insurance companies are allowed to add pharmacy services to their group insurance plans provided the services aren't covered by the Quebec public plan and add value to the plan. Charges can't be applied to pharmacy services that were previously provided at no charge.
- Committees are being formed to accommodate communication between the AQPP, insurers, and third party payers. One will resolve conflicts and monitor efficiency; another will review high-cost specialty drugs and create fee schedules for these types of medications.

*sites cannot be public-facing.

The agreement continues to be in line with existing legislation that restricts group benefit plans from promoting one pharmacy over another through prescription drug plan design options such as lower dispensing fees. From the perspective of the insurance industry, a key objective of the agreement is to move towards greater transparency on drug pricing and to improve drug plan sustainability in Quebec.

For more information

Contact your People Corporation account manager.

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