

Memorandum

To: PEI Community Pharmacies, PEI Pharmacy Association
From: Department of Health and Wellness – Pharmacy Services
Date: November 18, 2025
Subject: Pharmacist Scope Implementation Update – Strep A

On November 4, 2025, PEI Pharmacare issued a program change notice advising that, **effective December 4, 2025**, updates will be made to the Pharmacy Plus Program to include coverage for pharyngitis.

To support this scope expansion, the Department of Health & Wellness (DHW) has partnered with the PEI Pharmacy Association to deliver a grant funding agreement that:

- Allows participating pharmacies to purchase point-of-care Strep A testing equipment and start-up supplies
- Provides some additional funding to support start-up costs

Under the Pharmacy Plus Program, reimbursement will be available for test strips/swabs and pharyngitis assessments.

Strep A Resources for Community Pharmacies

The [Resources for Community Pharmacies](#) webpage on the Staff Resource Centre will be the primary source for up-to-date information and resources going forward. It includes a dedicated Pharmacy Plus Program section with links to supporting materials for Step A, including:

- [Billing Guidance for Pharyngitis Assessment](#)
- [FAQs for Pharyngitis Assessment, Testing and Prescribing](#)
- Updated [Pharmacy Plus Provider Guide](#)

Upcoming Education and Training

The PEI Pharmacy Association is hosting a **virtual town hall on December 2 at 7:00 p.m.** During this event, the DHW Pharmacare team will review program logistics and billing guidance, and information will be shared about a custom-developed MAPflow algorithm to assist with Strep A assessments.

All registered pharmacists and technicians can attend. Registration details will be posted on the [Staff Resource Centre](#) in the coming days.

Rollout Plan and Public Communication

We recognize this is a busy time for pharmacists, with cold and flu season and other provincial initiatives underway.

To ease this implementation, we are planning for a soft launch of point-of-care Strep A testing in early December 2025 with participating pharmacies. The soft launch phase will allow time for training, onboarding, process adjustment and a more comfortable ease into service delivery before a public announcement.

Public communication about the official launch will be led by Government under the Pharmacy Plus Program banner, with an announcement planned for early 2026. In keeping with previous initiatives launched under the Pharmacy Plus Program, pharmacies, pharmacists, and collaborating partners are asked **not to promote this service offering** until after the official government public announcement in 2026.