

Pharmacist Assessment of Common Ailments: Strep A Testing in Community Pharmacies

FAQs for Health Care Providers

November 2025

Overview

Pharmacists can assess patients presenting with sore throat symptoms and, when clinically appropriate, perform a throat swab for group A streptococcus using a point-of-care test machine.

Who is eligible for reimbursement of strep testing in community pharmacies?

Islanders are eligible for the program if they:

- Have a valid PEI Health Card; and
- Have a demonstrated clinical need

Services will not be reimbursed for people who do not have an active PEI health card.

Which strep testing is eligible for reimbursement:

Approved Molecular Strep A testing instruments are eligible. This refers to a diagnostic device approved by Health Canada designed specifically for the detection of *Streptococcus pyogenes* (Group A Streptococcus) in throat swab samples from individuals suspected of having strep throat. The instrument utilizes either nucleic acid amplification testing (NAAT) or polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology to amplify and analyze genetic material, providing rapid, high-sensitivity, and high-specificity results for the presence of Strep A bacteria. Approved Molecular Step A testing instruments include:

- Abbott ID NOW™ Molecular Point-of-Care Strep A

Are all pharmacies equipped to perform point-of-care strep testing?

No. Only community pharmacies that have procured an approved testing machine are eligible for reimbursement. Providers can refer patients to the [list of participating pharmacies](#). If your pharmacy has procured an approved testing machine and is not on the list of participating community pharmacies, please contact PEI Pharmacare.

How are test results documented and shared?

Pharmacists must document the assessment, test results, and management plan in the patient's pharmacy record. Documentation requirements are provided in **Appendix A**. All required components must be completed when submitting claims to Pharmacare. Pharmacists must comply with [practice standards](#) and communicate results "as soon as is reasonably possible to other health professionals caring for the patient, as appropriate."

As with other Pharmacy Plus assessments, information regarding which assessment has been reimbursed is viewable on the Drug Information System. For pharyngitis, this information includes whether a patient was tested for Strep A and the results of the test.

How are pharmacists expected to bill for strep throat assessments?

Pharmacists assessing for strep throat will use one of three designated Pseudo DINs (PDINs), depending on the type of assessment and test result:

1. **Assessment – Pharyngitis No Swab:**
Used when the clinical assessment does not warrant Strep testing (e.g., viral pharyngitis).
PDIN: 90109815 Days' Supply= 1
2. **Assessment - Pharyngitis with Swab (Positive Result):**
Used when a throat swab is performed and the result is positive for Strep.
PDIN: 90109268 Days' Supply= 1
3. **Assessment - Pharyngitis with Swab (Negative Result):**
Used when a throat swab is performed and the result is negative for Strep.
PDIN: 90109816 Days' Supply= 1

The swab-related assessments are separated by test results to support accurate reporting and tracking. Please note that the PDIN 93899794 ("Assessment- Sore Throat") will be retired and replaced by these new PDINs.

How many pharyngitis assessments can be billed per patient?

Pharmacists may bill one pharyngitis assessment per patient per day. There is no annual limit on the number of assessments that can be billed for an individual. However, pharmacists are expected to exercise clinical judgment when determining the necessity of each assessment to ensure appropriate and evidence-based care.

How can I order test kits for the approved strep testing instrument?

The ID NOW™ Molecular Point-of-Care Strep A 2 assay test kits can be ordered through the following wholesalers:

- **McKesson**
Item Number: 195591
- **Matrix**
Item Number: 21528574

How are tests reimbursed?

Tests are reimbursed as part of the Strep Assessment with Swab PDINs. Reimbursement includes the following components:

- **Drug Cost:** Equivalent to the cost of one approved swab
- **Mark-Up:** 10% of the swab cost
- **Dispensing Fee:** \$25 Strep throat assessment fee

Please note that **expired or damaged tests are not eligible for reimbursement through Pharmacare**. Pharmacists are responsible for ensuring that all submitted claims reflect the use of valid and appropriate testing supplies.

Who can I contact with questions regarding billing for Pharmacy Plus assessments?

For inquiries related to billing of assessments, please contact PEI Pharmacare:

- Email: drugprograms@gov.pe.ca
- Telephone: 902-368-4947
- Toll-Free: 1-877-577-3737

The Pharmacare team will be happy to assist with any questions regarding billing procedures or claim submissions.

Appendix A

The following documentation requirements align with the practice directive *Prescribing of Drugs by Pharmacists* in Appendix B from the PEI College of Pharmacy¹. The following information related to Pharmacy Plus prescribing must be documented, filed, and retained in the pharmacy's records:

1. General Patient Information

- Name
- Contact information
- Date of birth
- Gender
- Weight and height (if applicable)
- Any known contraindications or allergies/intolerances to drugs, excipients, or other substances related to drug therapy
- Medical conditions
- Pregnancy and lactation status (if applicable)
- Other relevant information

2. Prescribing Details

- Date of prescribing decision
- Presenting health condition or drug-related problem, including symptoms, signs, history, and any treatment
- Patient assessment details/findings
- Description of prescribing decision, rationale, and supporting information/documents (e.g., lab reports, previous prescription labels, written documentation of diagnosis from a healthcare professional)
- Instructions provided to the patient
- Follow-up plan details to allow other healthcare professionals or caregivers to monitor progress
- Name of prescribing pharmacist
- Information to allow other pharmacy staff to provide continuity of care
- Date and method of notifying other healthcare professionals (if applicable)
- Reference to the original prescription and prescriber name/contact information, when applicable
- Patient informed and voluntary consent
- Details of subsequent monitoring and follow-up regarding pharmacist prescribing (if applicable)

3. Prescription Details

Prescriptions must include all information required for a standard prescription in accordance with applicable regulations and professional standards.

¹[Practice Directive: Prescribing of Drugs by Pharmacists](#)