

PEI Pharmacare Memorandum

To: Community Pharmacies, PEI Pharmacy Association, PEI College of Pharmacy and Recipients of the Pharmacare Bulletin.

Date : May 19, 2022

Subject: NEW SUBSTANCE USE HARM REDUCTION DRUG PROGRAM

Starting June 1, 2022, the Province has created the Substance Use Harm Reduction Drug Program, replacing the previous Opioid Replacement Therapy Program. This program will provide full coverage of Opioid Replacement Treatment, including Methadone oral solution, Buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone generics), Buprenorphine (Sublocade and Probuphine), as well as Alcohol Use Disorder medications, including acamprosate and naltrexone, with no out of pocket costs for eligible Island residents.

Eligibility is limited to PEI residents as defined by the *Drug Cost Assistance Act* who require drug therapy for substance dependency as recommended by a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner. Patients currently enrolled in the Opioid Replacement Therapy Program will automatically be enrolled in the new program effective June 1, 2022. Patients currently approved for any of these medications through Pharmacare, and paying a copay, may wish to contact their healthcare provider to register them in this new program.

Enrolment into the Substance Use Harm Reduction Drug Program will require the completion and submission of a Substance Use Harm Reduction Drug Program Patient Registration Form by a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner.

This form and an associated website will be available on PEI Pharmacare's website:

www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-pei/substance-use-harm-reduction-drug-program

Coverage of acamprosate, naltrexone and Probuphine require Special Authorization; in addition to the program registration form, a Standard Special Authorization Request form must be submitted and the patient must meet the criteria set out in the formulary for coverage under the Substance Use Harm Reduction Drug Program.

Pharmacy Claims:

- Pharmacare will reimburse the standard dispensing fee (up to \$12.36), eligible mark-up, and maximum reimbursable pricing.
- A patient will be eligible for coverage on the first business day of Pharmacare's receipt of the completed Substance Use Harm Reduction Drug Program Patient Registration form and, if required, a Special Authorization request form.
- Pharmacare will be accepting registration forms and associated Special Authorization requests prior to June 1, 2022, but coverage will not commence until June 1, 2022.

- Medication coverage will not be retroactive; **patients are not eligible for reimbursement of medications purchased prior to program enrolment.**
- Patient's copay is \$0 for eligible claims.

Medication	DIN	Maximum: Quantity/Day Supply	SA Required
Acamprosate 333 mg (Campral)	02293269	180 tablets/30 days	Yes
Naltrexone 50 mg	02213826 02444275 02451883	30 tablets/30 days	Yes
Methadone Solution 10 mg/mL	02244290	Days supply should be based on product stability.	No
Buprenorphine & Naloxone (Suboxone) 2mg/0.5mg Tablet & 8mg/2mg Tablet	02295695 02424851 02453908 02295709 02424878 02453916	Up to a 30 days supply	No
Buprenorphine 100 mg/0.5mL Syringe & 300 mg/1.5mL Syringe (Sublocade)	02483084 02483092	1.5 mL/30 days	No
Buprenorphine 80 mg Subdermal Implant (Probuphine)	02474921	4 implants/180 days	Yes