



December 2002

Palliative Care Drug Access Program

Frequently Asked *Questions & Answers* for Pharmacists

What is the Palliative Care Drug Access Program?

Effective December 9, 2002, the Palliative Care Drug Access Program will be in place. The program's purpose is to facilitate access to eligible pharmaceuticals on a no cost basis to a terminally ill patient in their last six months of life, who wishes to remain in the community as an alternative to requiring admission to a health care facility.

Who is eligible for the Palliative Care Drug Access Program (PCDAP)?

Manitoba residents covered under Manitoba Health whose physicians have determined they meet the following criteria:

- The applicant requires prescribed eligible pharmaceuticals to support the palliative care plan.
- The applicant's primary pharmaceutical needs are for comfort-focused care.
- The applicant and/or their family understand, and agree with the plan for comfort-focused care.

What is the PCDAP application process cycle?

- The PCDAP application process begins with a patient's physician completing a PCDAP application, which is then forwarded to the regional health authority (RHA) palliative care co-ordinator for review.
- The RHA palliative care co-ordinator reviews the application, determines eligibility and based on satisfaction of PCDAP criteria, forwards the completed application to the Provincial Drug Program for final approval and registration.
- Once the application is processed, the Provincial Drug Program advises the RHA palliative care co-ordinator that the patient is enrolled in the PCDAP. In turn, the regional palliative care co-ordinator notifies the patient's physician that he/she may now prescribe PCDAP prescriptions.

The expectation is that a patient will not present at a pharmacy with a PCDAP prescription until the RHA palliative care co-ordinator has notified their physician of the patient's enrollment and eligibility.

If the patient is not accepted into the program, is a review process available?

If a patient does not meet the criteria for the program, the physician may request a review of the application. A Palliative Care Drug Access Program Advisory Committee consisting of palliative care physicians and practitioners is in place to review these requests and make recommendations to Manitoba Health. A written request must be submitted by the physician to the Palliative Care Drug Access Program, Manitoba Health, Regional Support Services, Room 2042-300 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, MB, R3B 3M9 by courier or fax to 942-2030 or toll free 1-877-208-3588.

Should there be a material change in the circumstance such that a patient may be eligible in the future, the physician may reapply at that time.

What are the eligible PCDAP Pharmaceutical products?

All Part 1 and Part 2 products as listed by the Manitoba Drug Benefits Formulary are considered eligible for reimbursement by the Palliative Care Drug Access Program. In addition, a number of specific products for this patient population are also considered eligible benefits, please see Appendix A – Palliative Care Drug Access Program Product Listing.

How is the PCDAP Benefit List revised?

PCDAP product additions to Part I and Part 2 of the Manitoba Drug Benefits Formulary and Appendix A – Palliative Care Drug Access Program Product Listing are made based on the review and recommendation of the Manitoba Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee (MDSTC).

How does a physician request benefit coverage for a product not listed in the PCDAP benefit listing?

As with all Provincial Drug Programs, physicians may request Part 3 Exception Drug Status for products not listed on the PCDAP benefits listing by calling the Exception Drug Status office at 788-6388 or toll free at 1-800-557-4303.

Do I need to indicate “Meets Exception Drug Status (EDS)” for products listed in Part 2?

Yes, the Part 2 “Meets Exception Drug Status” process remains the same.

Are all pharmacy software vendors capable of adding the Palliative Care Drug Access Program Carrier ID PA04?

Yes, pharmacy software vendors have advised the Department that they are capable of adding the additional Carrier ID PA04.

How are PCDAP claims adjudicated through the Drug Programs Information Network (DPIN)?

All PCDAP claims should be submitted to the DPIN system with the Carrier ID of PA04.

What professional fees may a pharmacist charge?

The usual and customary professional fee may be charged.

Who do I contact for more information about this program?

For any additional information about the Palliative Care Drug Access Program please call the DPIN Helpdesk at 786-8000 or toll free 1-800-663-7774. In the event that you require additional information, the department will maintain a centralized list of Regional Health Authority Palliative Care Coordinators to facilitate necessary referrals.

