

DIRECT-PAY PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM

WorkSafeNB has a direct-pay program for prescriptions, available at all pharmacies throughout New Brunswick.

The goal of this program is to ensure that all injured workers entitled to reimbursement for drugs for the treatment of a workplace injury or illness will receive quality and timely service through direct-pay. The program also ensures WorkSafeNB only pays for prescription drugs that treat the work-related condition.

How does it work?

The injured worker takes the prescription related to their workplace injury to a pharmacy and provides their claim number, exact name and date of birth. If the prescribed drug is approved for the work-related injury, then it will be dispensed to the injured worker at no cost.

What happens when a prescription drug is not approved for direct payment?

A prescription may not be approved for the direct payment for several reasons:

- The prescribed drug does not match the injured worker's injury or illness.
- The worker's claim number, date of birth or first or last name does not match that on the system.
- WorkSafeNB has not yet accepted the injured worker's claim.
- The worker's claim is no longer eligible.

When direct payment for a prescription is not approved, the injured worker may choose to pay for the prescription and then submit the original receipt to WorkSafeNB for review. If WorkSafeNB determines the drug is covered, the injured worker will be reimbursed. The injured worker will be advised in writing if WorkSafeNB concludes that the drug prescribed is not covered for the injury or illness.

The Injured Worker's Role

It is vital that the injured worker provide the pharmacist with their correct claim number, name and date of birth each time they have a prescription filled. The injured worker should verify this information with WorkSafeNB before visiting the pharmacy.



The Pharmacy's Role

The pharmacist obtains the correct claim number, name and date of birth from the injured worker and transmits this information, along with the details of the prescription, for online approval. If approval is granted, the pharmacist will dispense the injured worker's prescribed drug at no cost to the worker. All approval will be done online; the pharmacist will not be able to obtain approval any other way.



The Prescriber's Role

WorkSafeNB pays for drugs that are prescribed by a health care provider who is legally able to prescribe, and that are appropriate for the compensable injury or illness. This includes prescribed over-the-counter medications. If the prescribed drug is not approved for WorkSafeNB coverage, then the injured worker may request the prescriber to submit information to WorkSafeNB for review and consideration as to how the specific medication relates to the treatment of the work-related injury or illness.

WorkSafeNB's Role

WorkSafeNB is ultimately responsible for adjudication of all claims. If an injured worker's prescription drug is not approved online at the pharmacy, WorkSafeNB will review any information submitted by the injured worker or their physician for further consideration. WorkSafeNB will also review and monitor usage of the prescription direct-pay program. WorkSafeNB adjudicates the direct-pay program for prescriptions, through Medavie Blue Cross electronic connections to pharmacies throughout Atlantic Canada. Therefore, all payments for prescriptions will be issued by Medavie Blue Cross on WorkSafeNB's behalf.

For more information contact:
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