

# Maximum Allowable Cost Changes to Proton Pump Inhibitors and Intranasal Corticosteroids – December 2016

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What are the coverage changes to these drugs?**

Effective January 16, 2017, the Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC) price threshold will be changed for proton pump inhibitors (used to treat stomach conditions) and the MAC policy will be applied to intranasal corticosteroids (used for allergies).

### **How would these changes affect me if I am on a stomach medication or nose spray?**

If you are currently on a medication that falls **within** the MAC price threshold, then you would pay your usual prescription charge, according to your coverage, deductible and/or copayment.

If you are currently on a drug that falls outside the MAC price threshold, then you would pay your usual prescription charge, according to your deductible and/or copayment, **plus** the difference in cost between the MAC price and the higher cost drug.

### **Does the MAC policy limit Saskatchewan residents to cheaper and less effective drugs?**

No. Drugs priced below the MAC price threshold are as effective, but less costly than other drugs within the group of similar drugs. This policy ensures that medications covered under the Saskatchewan Drug Plan are the most cost effective and support the health of individuals.

### **Do I have to change drugs?**

If you do not want to pay the difference in cost, you may contact your prescriber to discuss switching to an appropriate drug that falls within the MAC price threshold.

If you are willing to pay the additional cost, you do not have to change drugs.

### **What is the Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC) policy?**

For many common conditions, there are a variety of drugs that have the same medical effect, but they have different costs. The Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC) policy encourages cost effective prescribing that supports an individual's health needs. Under this policy, the price of the most cost effective medication(s) is used as a guide to set the maximum price the Drug Plan covers for other similar medications used to treat the same condition.

For more information about the MAC policy, visit <http://formulary.drugplan.health.gov.sk.ca> and click on "What's New" tab or call the Saskatchewan Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch at: 1-800-667-7581 (toll free) or 306-787-3317 (in Regina)