

 Saskatchewan Ministry of Health Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch	Section: <i>Pharmacy Professional Services</i>	Reference: DP-PPS-11
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		Revised May 1, 2026
LEVEL II - ADVANCED PRESCRIBING “A” (APA) PROGRAM (i.e., THERAPEUTIC SUBSTITUTION) POLICY and PROCEDURES		

POLICY

- Effective August 19, 2025, the Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch (DPEBB) will pay community pharmacies, under the Advanced Prescribing "A" (APA) Program, an Advanced Prescriptive Authority "A" Fee (APAF) for activities listed in Appendix I of this Policy.
- The amount of the APAF paid is in accordance with Schedule B for the Pharmacy Proprietor Agreement that is in effect on the date the prescription is issued.
- The APAF is paid when a pharmacist prescribes a Schedule I drug according to the *Regulatory Bylaws of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals (SCPP)*.
- **No incentives shall be provided** by the Proprietor or an agent on behalf of the Proprietor to any other person in relation to the provision of APAF.
"incentives" means any money, gifts, donations to a charity, rebates, refunds, customer loyalty programs, points, coupons, discounts, goods, dividends and/or rewards which can be redeemed for a gift or other benefit.

PURPOSE

- To improve public access to the Saskatchewan healthcare system by supporting pharmacists to practice to their full scope.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

- *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act*
- *The Prescription Drugs Act (Saskatchewan)*
- *The Drug Schedules Regulations, 1997 Amendment regulations*
- *The Health Administration Act*

DESCRIPTION

- The APA Program pays a pharmacy for the decision making and prescribing by pharmacists in a collaborative practice environment and for communicating with the general practitioner after a pharmacist prescribes.

- The cost of the prescription for the Schedule I drug is subject to the eligible patient's usual drug coverage.

ELIGIBILITY

- Any Saskatchewan resident with a valid Health Services Number.

PROCEDURES

The Pharmacist will:

- Adhere to the *Regulatory Bylaws of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals* (SCPP).
- Successfully complete Advanced Prescribing "A" training and meet competency standards as required by SCPP Council. (Note: Pharmacists must have this condition removed by SCPP before they are enabled to use this scope of practice)
- Comply with the standards outlined in [SCPP General Provisions for Prescribing Authority](#).
- Comply with the SCPP reference manual policy [Advanced Prescribing "A" – Therapeutic Substitutions Policy](#).
- Fully complete all sections on SCPP's [Pharmacist Assessment Record \(PAR\)- Advanced Prescribing "A"- Therapeutic Substitution](#).
- Provide the PAR to the client's primary and/or prescribing practitioner, if available.

The Pharmacy will:

- Submit the claim for the drug prescribed electronically for adjudication or capture before the APAF claim as per Appendix II.
- Submit the APAF on the same day as the drug claim as per Appendix II.
- Match the prescriber in the APAF to the prescriber submitted for the prescribed drug claim.
- Ensure the dispensed prescription is captured on the Pharmaceutical Information Program (PIP).
- Retain the PAR as per SCPP's Reference Manual - [Record Retention and Destruction](#) Guidelines.
- Provide copies of the PAR upon DPEBB's request as part of its review of adherence to the APA Program Policy and Procedures within 2 business days.

The Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch will:

- Provide pharmacies with the APA Program Policy and Procedures.
- Pay pharmacies the APAF upon receipt of the electronic claim.
- Note: DPEBB billing fees may not align with SCPP prescribing limits.
- Request and review the PAR to confirm pharmacists and pharmacies have adhered to the APA Program Policy and Procedure.
- Recover the APAF, if DPEBB determines, based on its review, that there was non-adherence to the APA Program Policy and Procedures.

APPENDIX I:
Billing Codes and Threshold/Limitations

Billing Code	Prescriptive Authority Fee	Level II Prescriptive Authority Service	Limitations
00951676	\$18.00	Advanced Prescribing "A" <u>Therapeutic Substitution for a Practitioner-Initiated Prescription</u> (Part K Section 16): <i>After a practitioner has provided a diagnosis and issued a prescription for the patient, a pharmacist may make one or subsequent therapeutic substitutions of drugs within the pharmacologic class approved by Council.</i>	Maximum of SIX (6) in a 365-day period per patient. May be subject to change depending on circumstances.

APPENDIX II: Billing Procedure

Steps for pharmacist when prescribing under the bylaws:

1. Dispense the eligible drug(s) and submit the claims for adjudication for capture electronically via the DPEBB on-line claims system.
2. Adjudicate the APAF electronically via the DPEBB on-line claims system using the appropriate pseudoDIN to the DPEBB.
3. Billing should occur on a real-time basis, using the Prescriptive Authority Billing Codes listed in Appendix I.

STEP 1: Dispensing the drug (as prescribed by the pharmacist under the Level II - Prescriptive Authority Program)

- Use "SKCP" and your pharmacist ID number in the Health Provider fields
- Use "D" in front of your own pharmacist ID number.
- Ensure the following fields are completed as follows:
 - **PATIENT IDENTIFIER** = nine-digit Health Services Number (HSN)
 - **DISPENSING DATE** = date of the activity (e.g., August 19, 2025)
 - **RX NUMBER** = enter the sequential RX#
 - **HEALTH PROVIDER ORGANIZATION ID** = SKCP
 - **HEALTH PROVIDER ID** = Pharmacist ID number (e.g. D1234)
 - **PHARMACIST ORGANIZATION ID** = SK
 - **PHARMACIST ID** = Pharmacist ID number (e.g. D1234)
 - **DIN** = enter the DIN of the product prescribed and dispensed
 - **COMPOUNDING FEE (CF)** = \$0.00
 - **COMPOUND NAME** = blank (unless dispensing a compound)
 - **QUANTITY (QTY)** = enter quantity dispensed
 - **DAYS SUPPLY** = enter days supply dispensed
 - **ACQUISITION COST (AC)** = enter actual acquisition cost
 - **DISPENSING FEE (DF)** = enter usual and customary fee
 - **MARKUP** = tiered as per Pharmacy Proprietor Agreement
 - **TOTAL RX COST** = enter total cost
 - **PATIENT PAID** = as appropriate
 - **ADJUDICATION FLAG** = Y/N

Step 2: Submitting the Advanced Prescriptive Authority “A” Fee (APAF) as the prescriber

- Submit the APAF electronically via the DPEBB on-line claim system on the date the prescription is issued.
- DPEBB pays 100% of the APAF to the pharmacy.
- Ensure the following fields are completed as follows:
 - **PATIENT IDENTIFIER** = nine-digit Health Services Number (HSN)
 - **DISPENSING DATE** = date of the activity (e.g., August 19, 2025)
***must be the same date as the prescription claim in Step 1**
 - **RX NUMBER** = enter the sequential RX#
 - **HEALTH PROVIDER ORGANIZATION ID** = SKCP
 - **HEALTH PROVIDER ID** = Pharmacist ID number (e.g., D1234)
***must match the provider ID from the prescription claim in step 1**
 - **PHARMACIST ORGANIZATION ID** = SK
 - **PHARMACIST ID** = Pharmacist ID number (e.g., D1234)
 - **DIN** = enter appropriate billing code (pseudoDIN) for service provided (see Appendix I)
 - **COMPOUNDING FEE (CF)** = \$0.00
 - **COMPOUND NAME** = blank
 - **QUANTITY (QTY)** = 1 (limitations are as noted in Appendix I)
 - **DAYS SUPPLY** = enter days supply dispensed
 - **ACQUISITION COST (AC)** = as per Appendix I
 - **DISPENSING FEE (DF)** = \$0.00
 - **MARKUP** = 00 / 00 / 00
 - **TOTAL RX COST** = total fee
 - **PATIENT PAID** = \$0.00
 - **ADJUDICATION FLAG** = Y

- Please note: The DPEBB will not accept paper claims for the APAF.
- If you are unable to submit either the record of the drug prescribed and dispensed or the PAF electronically through your Practice Management System, use the secure DPEBB WEB page by logging on to <https://www.drugplan.health.gov.sk.ca>.
- If you are not sure how to install the WEB certificate, contact your software vendor.
- The Level II Prescriptive Authority billing codes will not appear on:
 - PIP;
 - the Formulary; and,
 - requested patient profiles.