

 Saskatchewan Ministry of Health Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch	Section <i>Pharmacy Professional Services</i>	Reference DP-PPS-20
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METHADONE FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER PROGRAM POLICY and PROCEDURES		

POLICY

- The Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch (DPEBB) will pay community pharmacies, under the Methadone for Opioid Use Disorder Program, a Methadone Managed Care fee (MCF) when a pharmacist performs managed care and follow-up services to eligible patients with “service” limited to in-person provision.
- The DPEBB will pay community pharmacies, under the Methadone for Opioid Use Disorder Program, an off-site Managed Care Fee to a community pharmacy when that pharmacy employs a nurse to perform managed care and follow-up services to eligible patients with “service” limited to in-person provision.
- No payment of a managed care fee will be made to a pharmacy when the nurse is providing the service while under the employment of another party, such as the Saskatchewan Health Authority, correctional facility, clinic or physician.
- The amount of the MCF and the off-site MCF paid is in accordance with Schedule B of the Pharmacy Proprietor Agreement that is in effect on the date the service is provided. DPEBB pays 100% of the MCF and off-site MCF for eligible patients.
- **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 opioid agonist therapy (e.g., methadone).
“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 ensure patients receive their prescribed dose of methadone and are adhering to their prescribed regimen under the provincial Opioid Agonist Therapy Program.
- To improve patient safety by preventing drug diversion.
- To provide access to professional services related to methadone administration at a site alternate to the traditional pharmacy setting.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

- *The Health Administration Act, (Saskatchewan)*

- *The Pharmacy and Pharmacy Disciplines Act, 2015*
- *The Prescription Drugs Act (Saskatchewan)*
- *The Public Health Act, 1994*

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- The Program pays a pharmacy **ONCE** weekly for the work and responsibility associated with a pharmacist providing monitoring and supervision related to the provision of methadone for opioid use disorder.

DEFINITIONS

Methadone Managed Care

- The clinical services provided by a pharmacist or nurse which includes methadone monitoring, supervision and other required activities related to the provision of methadone for opioid use disorder.
- The service provided is limited to in-person service.

Special-care Home

- A Special-care Home, formerly referred to as a Long-term Care Facility, is defined as a designated facility that provides personal or nursing care to individuals who reside in the home on a temporary or permanent basis. The home may provide any of the following types of care: convalescent care; rehabilitation services; palliative care; respite care; and day programming. Special-care homes are operated by the Saskatchewan Health Authority or by a provider that has a contract with the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

ELIGIBILITY

- An eligible patient is a Saskatchewan resident with a valid Health Services Number and **not covered** under Workers Compensation, SGI, Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB), Veteran Affairs Canada and Canadian Armed Forces.
- *Exclusions: Residents of a Special-care Home are not eligible for the MCF.

PROCEDURES

The Pharmacist will:

- Follow the dispensing and documentation requirements as set out in the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals (SCPP) "*Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) Standards*" and provincial/federal regulations related to the dispensing of methadone.
- Ensure the milligrams per day of methadone prescribed to the patient is submitted with the drug claim. This will provide accurate and complete information to the Pharmaceutical Information Program and the Prescription Review Program ensuring all health practitioners have a clear understanding of the amount of methadone prescribed.
- Provide in-person methadone managed care to their clients.

The Pharmacy will:

- Submit the methadone drug claim electronically on a weekly basis for capture and adjudication to DPEBB (**paper claims will not be accepted**). Drug claims may be submitted more frequently only if the prescription is written for less than seven (7) days (see Appendix I).
- Submit the MCF or the off-site MCF on a weekly basis for capture and adjudication to DPEBB (**paper claims will not be accepted**) (see Appendix II).
- Ensure the dispensed prescription is captured on the Pharmaceutical Information Program.
- Retain all methadone documentation as per the SCPP Reference Manual - [*Record Retention and Destruction*](#) guidelines.
- Provide copies of the methadone documentation upon DPEBB's request within two (2) business days as part of its review of adherence to the Methadone for Opioid Use Disorder Program Policy and Procedures.

Note: Pharmacies are unable to claim a MCF when a client misses a dose or on days when the pharmacy is closed (e.g., weekend and statutory holidays) as service must be provided in person.

The Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch will:

- Provide pharmacies with the Methadone for Opioid Use Disorder Program Policy and Procedures.
- Pay pharmacies for the MCF upon receipt of the electronic claim.
- Request and review the methadone documentation to confirm pharmacists and pharmacies have adhered to the Methadone for Opioid Use Disorder Program Policy and Procedures.
- Recover the MCF if DPEBB determines, based on its review, that there was non-adherence to the Methadone for Opioid Addiction Program Policy and Procedures.

Appendix I:
Weekly Billing Procedure for Commercially Available Methadone Products

1. Ensure the following fields are:

• PATIENT IDENTIFIER	= client nine-digit Health Services Number (HSN)
• DISPENSING DATE	= date prescription actually dispensed
• RX NUMBER	= enter the sequential RX#
• HEALTH PROVIDER ORGANIZATION ID	= SK (Saskatchewan pharmacy) SKMS (border pharmacy)
• HEALTH PROVIDER ID	= physician 10 digit Health Provider ID (i.e., 0000007890)
• PHARMACIST ORGANIZATION ID	= SK
• PHARMACIST ID	= pharmacist ID number (e.g., D1234)
• DIN	= enter the DIN of product prescribed
• COMPOUNDING FEE (CF)	= \$0.00
• COMPOUND NAME	= blank
• METHADONE MG PER DAY	= milligrams per day
• QUANTITY (QTY)	= enter quantity as the total number of milliliters dispensed to the patient
• DAYS SUPPLY	= 7 (or less if prescription is less than 7 days - daily dispense will not be accepted)
• ACQUISITION COST (AC)	= enter actual acquisition cost
• DISPENSING FEE (DF)	= usual and customary fee to the maximum allowed per current Pharmacy Proprietor Agreement
• MARKUP	= tiered as per current Pharmacy Proprietor Agreement
• TOTAL RX COST	= enter total cost
• PATIENT PAID	= as appropriate
• ADJUDICATION FLAG	= Y

Appendix II: Billing Procedure for Methadone Managed Care Fee

1. Drug Plan pays the pharmacy 100% of the Methadone Managed Care Fee.
2. Ensure the following fields are:

• PATIENT IDENTIFIER	= client nine-digit Health Services Number (HSN)
• DISPENSING DATE	= date prescription actually dispensed
• RX NUMBER	= enter the sequential RX#
• HEALTH PROVIDER ORGANIZATION ID	= SK (Saskatchewan pharmacy) SKMS (border pharmacy)
• HEALTH PROVIDER ID	= pharmacist ID number (e.g., D1234)
• PHARMACIST ORGANIZATION ID	= SK
• PHARMACIST ID	= pharmacist ID number (e.g., D1234)
• DIN	= 00951326 (on-site) or 00951327 (off-site requires prior approval)
• COMPOUNDING FEE (CF)	= \$0.00
• COMPOUND NAME	= blank
• METHADONE MG PER DAY	= blank
• QUANTITY (QTY)	= up to a maximum of 7 <i>*Number of times per week a pharmacist witnesses the patient taking the methadone. For an example: if your client picks up on Mondays and Thursdays, then your quantity should be 2 for that week.</i>
• DAYS SUPPLY	= 7
• ACQUISITION COST (AC)	= \$7.50 per witnessed dose, according to the current Pharmacy Proprietor Agreement
• DISPENSING FEE (DF)	= blank
• MARKUP	= blank
• TOTAL RX COST	= blank
• PATIENT PAID	= blank
• ADJUDICATION FLAG	= Y

- If you are unable to submit the fees through your Practice Management System, please 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, please contact your software vendor. To use the secure DPEBB WEB page, refer to the DPEBB Pharmacy Reference Manual, Section VI.
- Please note that the MCF billing codes will not appear on:
 - the Pharmaceutical Information Program;
 - the Formulary; and,
 - requested patient profiles.