

Bill 28 update: Impact to pharmaceutical services as of June 20, 2015

Plan Member FAQ

This communication applies to plan members who reside in the Province of Québec

****At time of publication****

If you are a Québec resident, you may be aware that, as a result of Bill 28, there were changes to pharmaceutical services, effective June 20, 2015. Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada (“Sun Life”) is pleased to share with you the following FAQ to help you understand the impact of Bill 28.

1. What is Bill 28?

Bill 28 is *An Act mainly to implement certain provisions of the Budget Speech of 4 June 2014 and return to a balanced budget in 2015-2016*). Among other things, Bill 28 authorizes the Government to extend prescription drug insurance coverage to include additional services offered by pharmacists.

2. What does this mean for me in the context of pharmaceutical services?

It means that, since June 20, 2015, pharmacists in Québec have been able to offer you additional services¹.

3. What are the additional services that the pharmacist can perform for me?

You should speak to your pharmacist for the most up-to-date information on services that pharmacists can perform.

4. Of these services, which are eligible for reimbursement?

The Québec Government will be issuing a regulation or a specific agreement, which is expected to define the services that are eligible for reimbursement by private plans and the levels of reimbursement.

5. If the pharmacist charges me, will it be covered under my private plan?

At this time, these services are NOT eligible for reimbursement. As noted above, the Government is expected to issue a regulation/specific agreement at a later date, detailing which services are to be reimbursed by private plans and the levels of reimbursement.

¹ Please see <http://www.opq.org/fr-CA/grand-public/nouvelles-activites-des-pharmaciens/> (please note that this website is only available in French)

6. Once the details of the regulation/specific agreement are available, are there any circumstances in which I will still not be reimbursed?

If your employer does not pay for RAMQ drugs not covered under your plan, you will not obtain a reimbursement for these pharmaceutical services.

7. Am I under any obligation to accept these services from the pharmacist?

The new services are meant to increase access to healthcare and prescription directly at the pharmacy counter, but no, you are NOT under any obligation to accept these services. It is your choice and it should be part of the discussion with your pharmacist.

You can continue to visit your physician, or another healthcare professional.

8. When will the regulation/specific agreement be made available?

We have not been given an exact date.

9. Will the regulation/specific agreement be retroactive?

At this stage, we do not know.

10. What should I do with my receipt?

You should feel free to submit the receipt and once the eligibility of the pharmaceutical services has been defined and we have updated our systems, Sun Life will process your claim for those services.

11. Is the claim eligible under my Health Spending Account?

Yes, pharmaceutical services are eligible under your Health Spending Account.

12. Where can I find more information about Bill 28?

For more information about Bill 28, please visit the websites of the [National Assembly](#) and the [Ordre des pharmaciens du Québec](#).

We will keep you updated as more information becomes available.