

Understanding your benefits

Helping you make the most of your drug coverage

Your group benefit plan covers drugs listed on the National Formulary. Although it covers approximately 85% of the most frequently prescribed drugs in Canada, you may find yourself with a prescription for a drug that isn't on the list. This is important to understand because non-formulary drugs are either covered at a lower percentage, or not covered at all (in which case you'll need to pay the full amount.)

The table below lists the most commonly prescribed non-formulary drugs, and suggests possible alternative drugs that are included in the formulary.

How does it work?

Simply take this list with you when you visit your doctor. The decision about which drugs are prescribed is between you and your doctor. Occasionally, a drug your physician prescribes will not be eligible, but another drug that provides a similar benefit – a therapeutic alternative – may be on the formulary.

If your doctor is unfamiliar with the National Formulary or wants more information, they can call the Physician Help Line at 1-866-645-2548.

Suggested therapeutic alternatives from the National Formulary:

Non-formulary drug Either covered at a lower percentage or not covered at all	National Formulary drug alternative Covered
Acne Therapy (oral) Accutane, Diane-35/CyEstra-35, Minocin	Allesse/Aviane, erythromycin, tetracycline, Tri-Cyclen, Yaz
Acne Therapy (topical) benzoyl peroxide \leq 5%	Benzamycin Gel, benzoyl peroxide $>$ 5%, Clindoxyl, Clindasol/Clindets Pledgets/Dalacin-T, Differin, Vitamin A
Actinic Keratoses Aldara, Zyclara	Efudex cream
Alcohol Dependence Campral	Revia
Antidepressants Cymbalta, Paxil CR, Pristiq	Celexa, Cipralext, Effexor XR, Paxil regular, Prozac, Remeron, Wellbutrin SR/XL, Zoloft
Anti-diabetic Agents Actos, Amaryl, Avandamet, Avandaryl, Avandia, Diamicon, Gluconorm, Glumetza, Januvia, Janumet, Onglyza, Starlix	Diabeta, Glucobay, Glucophage
Antifungal Agents Diflucan 50mg & 100mg tablets/oral suspension, Lamisil tablets, Posanol suspension, Vfend tablets	Lamisil cream/spray, Nizoral tablets/cream, Sporanox capsules/oral solution
Antifungal Agents (vaginal yeast infection) Diflucan 150mg capsule	Ecostatin vaginal ovule, Gynazole vaginal cream, Terazol vaginal ovule/cream
Anti-infectives Avelox, Ceftin, Cipro/Cipro XL, Factive, Ketek, Levaquin, Noroxin, Suprax	Amoxil, Biaxin, Ceclor, Cefzil, cephalixin, Clavulin, doxycycline, erythromycin, penicillin V, Pondocillin, sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim, Zithromax
Anti-inflammatory Agents Celebrex, Mobicox, Naprelan, Naprosyn E/SR, Relafen, Ultradol	Arthrotec, Motrin, Naprosyn, Voltaren regular/sustained release
Anti-inflammatory Eye Drops (cataract surgery) Ocular NSAID: Nevanac, Ocular Steroid: Lotemax	Ocular NSAID: Acular, Voltaren Ocular Steroid: Pred Forte, Maxidex, FML
Anti-migraine Agents Amerge, Axert, Fiorinal, Frova, Imitrex, Maxalt, Migranal, Relpax, Stadol NS, Zomig	Anti-inflammatory Agents, ASA with codeine 8mg, 15mg and 30mg, Cafegot, Sandomigran, Tylenol No. 1, 2 & 3
Anti-nauseants Anzemet, Cesamet, Emend, Kytril, Zofran	dexamethasone, metoclopramide, Stemetil

Anti-parkinsonian Agents Azilect, Comtan, Duodopa gel, Sinemet CR	selegiline, Sinemet, trihexyphenidyl
Antipsychotic Agents Clozaril, Risperdal Consta injection, Seroquel XR, Zeldox, Zyprexa	Abilify, Fluanxol, Haldol, Invega ER, Risperdal, Seroquel
Asthma Therapy Accolate, Singulair, Xolair	Advair, Alvesco, Flovent, Qvar, Pulmicort, Serevent, Symbicort
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)/Narcolepsy Adderall XR, Biphentin CR, Concerta ER, Strattera, Vyvanse	Dexedrine tablet, Dexedrine Spansule, Ritalin, Ritalin SR
Bedwetting/Enuresis DDAVP nasal spray, Rhinyle nasal solution	DDAVP Melt/tablet
Cholesterol Agents Ezetrol, Niaspan	Bezalip SR, cholestyramine, Colestid, Crestor, Lescol/Lescol XL, Lipidil EZ/Lipidil Supra, Lipitor, Lopid, Mevacor, Pravachol, Zocor
Cough Therapy Hycodan syrup	codeine syrup
Hormonal Contraceptive Evra transdermal patch, Seasonale	Linessa, Marvelon, Orthocept, Yasmin, Avaine/Alesse, Portia/Min-Ovral, Triphasil, Triquilar
Hormone Replacement Therapy Activelle, Climara Pro, Estalis, Estracomb, Estraderm, Estradot, Estrogel, PremPlus	Angeliq, Estrace, femHRT, Premarin, Prometrium
Osteoporosis Therapy Evista, Forteo, Miacalcin	Actonel, Didrocal, Didronel, femHRT, Fosamax, Premarin
Pain Duragesic/Duragesic MAT, Jurnista, OxyContin, Ralivia ER, Tridural ER and Zytram XL	Dilaudid, Statex Percocet, Tylenol No. 2, 3 & 4
Prostate Enlargement Avodart, Proscar, Xatral SR	Cardura, Flomax CR/SR, Hytrin
Psoriasis Therapy (non-topical) Amevive, Enbrel, Humira, Raptiva, Remicade, Soriatane, Stelara	methotrexate, Neoral
Psoriasis Therapy (topical) Dovobet, Dovonex, Tazorac, Silkis ointment	Betaderm, Dermovate, Cyclocort, Dermatop, desonide, desoximetasone, Elocom, fluocinonide, Halog, Hyderm, Kenalog, Nerisone, Propaderm, Westcort
Rheumatoid Arthritis (disease modifying) Arava, Cimzia, Enbrel, Humira, Kineret, Orenicia, Remicade, Rituxan, Simponi	methotrexate, Plaquenil, Salazopyrin
Sedatives (sleeping aids) Imovane	Ativan, Restoril, Serax
Stomach Acid Reducers Losec, Nexium, Pantoloc, Prevacid capsule/FasTab, Tecta	Axid, cimetidine, Pariet, Pepcid, Zantac
Testosterone Replacement Therapy Androderm patch, Androgel, Testim gel	Andriol oral capsules
Urinary Incontinence Detrol LA/Unidet SR, Ditropan XL, Enablex, Trosec, Vesicare	Ditropan, Urispas

Please note: The table lists the most commonly prescribed non-formulary drugs, and suggests possible alternative drugs that are included in the formulary. This list is not exhaustive and not meant to indicate a preference of one product over another. The possible therapeutic alternatives listed are not necessarily interchangeable. The drugs are shown within therapeutic categories for illustrative purposes only and not intended to define indications for use.

For more information

For a comprehensive and up-to-date list of the drugs your plan covers, you can access the Drug Look Up feature on the Sun Life Financial Plan Member Services website at www.mysunlife.ca or contact our Customer Care Centre at 1-800-361-6212.

Life's brighter under the sun

Group Benefits are offered by Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, a member of the Sun Life Financial group of companies.

GRP1631-E 11-10 jb-mp

