

Pharma Negotiated Savings Initiatives – Update

One of the many ways Sun Life helps plan sponsors with drug plan sustainability is by negotiating the right drug for the right price, through our Pharma Negotiated Savings Initiative.

Since 2014, Sun Life has led the private payer industry with the Remicade agreement – the first of its kind, for private payers in Canada. We are continuously monitoring the industry for opportunities to bring meaningful savings for our plan sponsors and plan members on high cost drug therapies.

We are excited to build on the success of our partnership with Janssen Inc., the manufacturer of Remicade® and to announce that we have recently negotiated an agreement with Jansen for Quebec. While the provincial public plan managed by RAMQ and other private payers may have decided to delist REMICADE® for new patients, reimbursing only the biosimilar, Sun Life Quebec plan members will continue to have options. If members stay on REMICADE®, Sun Life has negotiated a significant discount, competitive with the market forces that will impact their plan. This unique agreement focuses on giving plan members access to the broadest choice of drug therapies at a reduced cost, and supports patient outcomes, by providing significant cost savings for plan sponsors.

Sun Life is also pleased to announce that we have joined forces with Vertex, the manufacturer of ORKAMBI®, the only medicine approved by Health Canada for treating the underlying cause of Cystic Fibrosis.

This collaboration delivers optimal health outcomes for plan members, while balancing our commitment to drug plan sustainability. Eligible plan members may enroll in the *orkambiCARE™* patient assistance program offered by Vertex, which ensures appropriate utilization of ORKAMBI® and provides patient support during treatment. Plan members enrolled in the program, may receive on-treatment patient education, pharmacy reminders and, if eligible, financial support from the *orkambiCARE™* program. Only plan members with CF for whom the medication is appropriate will be approved for treatment. This means the Sun Life team and the *orkambiCARE™* program will work together, to ensure the necessary information is collected prior to authorization.

CF is a rare, inherited genetic disease that is life-shortening and seriously debilitating. There is no cure for CF, and until recently, treatments focused on the symptoms of the disease and not the underlying cause. CF is chronic and relentlessly progressive, involving destruction of the lungs, infections and eventually death. Patients with CF die primarily due to respiratory failure. In 2014, the median age of death in Canada for patients with CF was 32 years.

Sun Life continues to monitor the industry for the best opportunities to bring meaningful drug savings for our plan sponsors and plan members for high cost drug therapies.

Questions?

Contact your Sun Life Financial group benefits representative.

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

