

## Mass Contract Amendment – Drug Risk Management (DRM) - Reminder

As communicated in our August 31 [Focus Update](#), we will be introducing an additional layer of review for new drugs and new usages for existing drugs. We will be implementing this change on November 1 2017, and will be amending your contract to reflect this.

### Drug Risk Management (DRM)

To better mitigate the risks associated with new high-cost drugs coming to market and to better align us with those of the industry, we have enhanced our drug review process.

Through our pharmacoeconomic assessment, Sun Life determines which drugs should be covered under our plans – and places the new medication in our group benefits plan, by determining if it should be:

- covered under the plan;
- covered under the plan but subject to the PA Program, if applicable; or
- excluded from the plan.

Review timelines will vary from an almost immediate decision to a couple of weeks/months for more complex drugs. Once the drug claims for this medication are deemed eligible, they can then be submitted at the pharmacy, reimbursed, and the patient may begin his treatment.

Our expert team of pharmacists leads this proactive governance and ensures members get access to the right drug, at the right time and for the right indication.

To help you better visualize our DRM process, we have prepared this [flowchart](#).

**Reminder: Your contract will be amended effective November 1, 2017.**

## New Contract Wording

We included the following provision in our August 31 Focus Update:

Drugs covered under this plan must have a Drug Identification Number (DIN) and be approved under *Drug evaluation*.

**Drug evaluation** – As of November 1, 2017, the following drugs will be evaluated and must be approved by Sun Life to be eligible for coverage:

- drugs that receive Health Canada Notice of Compliance for an initial or a new indication
- drugs previously covered under this plan and subject to a significant increase in cost.

Drug expenses are eligible for reimbursement only if incurred on or after the date of Sun Life's approval.

Sun Life will assess the eligibility of the drug based on factors such as:

- comparative analysis of the drug cost and its clinical effectiveness.
- recommendations by health technology assessment organizations and provinces.
- availability of other drugs treating the same or similar condition(s).
- plan sustainability.

## What you need to do

Keep your August 31 Focus Update, which served as an amendment to your contract(s) effective **November 1, 2017**, and file it with your Sun Life group contract(s) for future reference. Depending upon plan design and any customizations to our standard plan, we may make minor changes to the above provision. Your contract will be updated at your next plan revision.

### Questions?

Contact your Sun Life Financial group benefits representative