



# Retiree Benefits At A Glance

Standing Committee on Insured Benefits

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Français au verso

## SPECIAL BULLETIN

As you may have experienced, or have heard in the news, there have been incidents of pharmacies charging Medavie Blue Cross cardholders over their co-pay amount, or completely refusing the Pay-Direct card.

At the request of the Standing Committee on Insured Benefits (SCIB), Medavie Blue Cross met with the Committee to discuss the issues related to the negotiation of new agreements between Medavie Blue Cross and Atlantic Canada pharmacies.

SCIB understands that these pharmacy agreements help keep drug and associated costs under control; and that this does benefit our Plan and its participants. However, the immediate and primary concern of SCIB is the impact that these negotiations are having on employee and retiree Plan participants.

Please report a refusal to accept your Pay-Direct card or an overcharge on your co-pay to Medavie Blue Cross at 1-800-667-4511. Here are your best options:

- 1) Prescription Transfer:** The cost of your medication, coupled with even a short wait for reimbursement, may be financially difficult, or impossible. Most current prescriptions can be transferred, at no cost, to a pharmacy that is accepting the Pay-Direct card. You can notify your current pharmacy of your intent to transfer your prescriptions, and then contact your new pharmacy to complete the transfer.
- 2) Reimbursement:** If you choose to continue to have prescriptions filled by a pharmacy that is not accepting your Pay-Direct card, note that the pharmacy could charge more than is allowable under a pharmacy agreement. Medavie Blue Cross will process your claim on a reimbursement basis for all but your co-pay of \$15.00; however, these charges will result in additional costs to our Health Plan. If you do not have easy access to a Quick Pay Office, you can shorten your reimbursement time by registering for Direct Deposit on the website or by telephone at 1-800-667-4511.

For regular updates, you can visit the website: [www.medavie.bluecross.ca](http://www.medavie.bluecross.ca) – *Pharmacy Updates*, or telephone Medavie Blue Cross at 1-800-667-4511.

### AGREEMENT REACHED

As of March 25<sup>th</sup>, agreements have been reached with these pharmacies, and they will continue to accept Pay-Direct cards:

- Costco
- Guardian
- Independent Pharmacies in NB
- Jean Coutu
- The Medicine Shoppe
- Meditrust, Saint John
- Walmart
- Shoppers Drug Mart (tentative)

As negotiations continue with other pharmacies, they could be added to this list at any time in the future.

### NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS

As of March 25<sup>th</sup>, these pharmacies are in the process of negotiating a new contract with Medavie Blue Cross:

- Atlantic Superstore (Loblaw Companies Ltd.)
- Lawtons
- PharmaChoice
- Pharmasave
- Sobeys
- Zellers

These pharmacies should accept Pay-Direct cards during negotiations. However, their continued participation depends on the outcome.