

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT



Date: June 16, 2017
To: Plan Administrators
Subject: Policy Amendment – Specialty Drug Program

Policy Amendment - Specialty Drug Program

We're pleased to announce we will soon be including our Specialty Drug Program in our standard group drug plans. The program is powered by our pharmacy benefit manager, Express Scripts Canada, and will take effect when your Group Policy renews. There is no additional charge for this program and there is no action you need to take.

The Specialty Drug Program only involves the few employees and dependents who take Specialty Drugs. The Specialty Drug Program will require that Specialty Drugs be purchased through Express Scripts Canada Pharmacy in order to receive the highest level of reimbursement. If employees or dependents prefer to order Specialty Drugs at their local pharmacy, your plan will pay 20% less.

What are Specialty Drugs?

Specialty Drugs are prescribed to treat chronic and complex medical conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, cancer, multiple sclerosis, and blood disorders. Specialty Drugs can be costly, require frequent dosing adjustments, intensive clinical monitoring, patient training and compliance assistance. They often have a limited or exclusive product availability and distribution, and/or have specialized product handling or administration requirements.

New wording in Group Policy

The following wording will be included in your Group Policy and Employee Benefits Booklet when your Group Policy renews.

New wording added to the Drug Component section of the Extended Health Benefits provision:

Preferred Choice Specialty Drug Program

This Plan includes the Specialty Drug Program for eligible Specialty Drugs and Medicines. The Specialty Drug Program requires the Person Insured to purchase Specialty Drugs and Medicines through Express Scripts Canada Pharmacy's supply service in order to receive the highest level of reimbursement. If a Person Insured purchases Specialty Drugs and Medicines from a Retail Pharmacy, eligible drugs will be reimbursed at a lower level of reimbursement, as set out in the Schedule of Benefits. A Person Insured may purchase all eligible Maintenance Drugs and Medicines and Other Drugs and Medicines through a Retail Pharmacy of their choice.

The Specialty Drug Program is delivered by a service provider. The Company shall have no liability or responsibility for such service provider's services.

The availability of the Specialty Drug Program is subject to the service provider's capacity to offer such services and/or the continuance of an agreement between the Company and a service provider. The Company may at its sole discretion change or cancel the Specialty Drug Program at any time without prior notice.

Important Notes:

- *the Schedule of Benefits – Extended Health Benefit for Drugs will be amended to reflect your plan design e.g. Coinsurance, Dispensing Fees*
- *the Specialty Drug Program does not apply to residents of Quebec*

This Notice of Amendment constitutes an amendment to your Group Policy. Please file this Notice of Amendment with your Group Policy for future reference.

The changes will be reflected in the electronic version of your Group Policy after your renewal. The updated Employee Benefits Booklet will also be available on the Plan Member and Plan Administrator websites at www.empire.ca.

Where can I learn more?

The brochure and Q&A will provide you with more of the details and answers to frequently asked questions. We encourage you to read the Q&A and learn more details about the program, how it works, and why we believe in the value it will bring all of our customers.

Contact us

As always, if you have any questions, please contact your Group Advisor or call our Customer Service Unit at 1-800-267-0215, or by email at group.csu@empire.ca.