



# PHARMACY

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## UPDATE

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National Edition

NOVEMBER 2020

### VALUE-BASED PHARMACY PHASE THREE UPDATE

In the May 2020 Pharmacy Update, we announced that phase three of GSC's Value-based Pharmacy initiative, scheduled to launch in July 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We used the delay as an opportunity to incorporate additional stakeholder feedback to further enhance the program; we are now able to confirm that the implementation of phase three will launch in **July 2021**.

As you know, phase three includes the implementation of the new reimbursement framework which ties the Pharmacy Quality Rating to pharmacy reimbursement. The new launch date means that pharmacy performance for the Performance Period ending December 31, 2020, will determine reimbursement for the Reimbursement Period of July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022. As a reminder, all the details about the Value-based Pharmacy reimbursement framework are available on [providerConnect.ca](https://providerconnect.ca).

### Be sure to subscribe to EQuIPP

If you don't yet have an EQuIPP subscription, we strongly encourage you to sign up now. EQuIPP gives you access to your measure-level performance information and helps you identify patients in your pharmacy who have quality-related care gaps, so you can tailor services to meet their needs. To gain access to EQuIPP services, contact your corporate office or visit [www.equipp.org](https://www.equipp.org) to submit your inquiry using the "Support" link (located in the top and bottom right corners). If you are part of a retail pharmacy banner, please include this information in the inquiry to help expedite the process.

### More details coming in January 2021...

Since the Value-based Pharmacy initiative was announced in 2017, GSC has engaged in dozens of stakeholder consultations with the pharmacy community to gather feedback on the program. Thanks to the input of those who participated, we have been able to make a number of important modifications to the program that will ultimately increase its relevance and positive impact on patient outcomes. Stay tuned for our January 2021 Pharmacy Update which will outline the collaborative work that has taken place and how the program has been enhanced.

And watch out for more information, including the specific impacts to reimbursement, in a subsequent issue of Pharmacy Update coming this spring.

## REMINDER: USING INTERVENTION CODES WITH MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES

Since maintenance medications are typically prescribed for a three-month supply, with multiple refills, GSC's maintenance medication strategy requires dispensing of a three-month supply for a defined list of *maintenance* drugs.

### providerConnect® is your online resource

providerConnect is GSC's web portal for health service providers in Canada. It gives you convenient access to forms, pharmacy manuals and guides, health coaching program information, and many other tools and resources all in one place.

Not acquainted with providerConnect yet? Register today at [providerconnect.ca](https://providerconnect.ca).

GSC's strategy applies to most maintenance drugs used to control and manage a variety of chronic conditions, such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and diabetes. It does not apply to certain types of maintenance medications where it would not be reasonable to dispense large quantities. This includes:

- Anti-psychotic agents
- Drugs with the potential for abuse (e.g., long acting pain-killers)
- Drugs that require frequent lab monitoring and/or dose adjustments (e.g., warfarin)

The Maintenance Medication List on the [providerConnect website](https://providerconnect.ca) lists all the maintenance drugs included in GSC's strategy.

### Submitting maintenance supply claims

GSC will deny claims for the applicable maintenance drugs that are dispensed for less than a three-month supply of the applicable drugs; the response code from the GSC system will be: "DR = days supply lower than minimum allowable."

The use of an intervention (or override) code for these claims should always be the last resort as there are other options available to pharmacists to obtain a three-month supply, such as extending the prescription themselves (where permitted) or contacting the prescriber to extend the prescription for additional refills. Keep in mind that **if an intervention code is used, the rationale must be clearly documented** in case of audit.

**Note:** The use of the code for one-day dispensing is not allowed.

See the Maintenance Medication Policy flowchart and slides on [providerConnect.ca](https://providerconnect.ca) for more information.

## LEAVE THE PAPER PHARMACY UPDATE BEHIND AND GO GREEN

It's almost 2021 – time to bid goodbye to paper copies of Pharmacy Update and say hello to our email version! Our newly re-designed electronic newsletter is easy to read, more convenient, and better for the environment. To continue to receive Pharmacy Update and not miss a single issue, we need you to register your pharmacy email address with our Provider Records department. Just send an email to [support@providerconnect.ca](mailto:support@providerconnect.ca) with the subject line **Pharmacy Update via email** and be sure to include the name of the pharmacy, your provider number, and the email address you want us to use.



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### GSC CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE 2020 HOLIDAY HOURS

Thursday, December 24	CLOSED
Friday, December 25	CLOSED
Monday, December 28	CLOSED
Tuesday, December 29	8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. EST
Wednesday, December 30	8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. EST
Thursday, December 31	8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. EST
Friday, January 1	CLOSED

Our regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. ET, Monday to Friday) resume on Monday, January 4, 2021.

**Best wishes for a healthy and happy 2021.**

