

# PHARMACY *update*

National Edition

OCTOBER 2018

## VALUE-BASED PHARMACY EXPANDS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO PATIENTS

In 2017 Green Shield Canada (GSC) launched the GSC Value-based Pharmacy initiative, designed to help pharmacies across Canada gain insight into areas of patient care where they're already doing well and areas where they can improve.

Our first step was to measure pharmacy performance, assess it against a set of validated metrics, and share that information with pharmacies via monthly Patient-Impact Scorecards. This past August we moved into phase two of the Value-based Pharmacy initiative by adding a new overall score (also called the pharmacy quality rating) to the scorecard. This overall score is a composite score of all applicable quality measures; the details about how it's calculated were provided in GSC's August 2018 Pharmacy Update. We're now ready to start sharing the overall score with GSC plan members through our secure Online Services web platform and mobile app.

### Improving plan member health

This fall we will be adding a new feature to GSC's Online Services and mobile app that will allow plan members to search for pharmacies near their physical location and will show them the pharmacy quality rating – from one to five stars – for those pharmacies. This will allow plan members to choose a pharmacy based on both location convenience and quality of care. Any pharmacies that do not qualify for a star rating will still show up on our search tool but the quality rating will show as N/A – not available.

As always, GSC's goal is to improve access to better care for our plan members; in providing the Pharmacy Quality Rating we want to help plan members make informed decisions around how well a pharmacy will be able to support them in achieving their health goals. It is an additional piece of information to consider when making a choice of pharmacy to visit.

### Reminder – Transition to the EQuIP™ platform

The monthly distribution of Patient-Impact Scorecards from GSC will end in December 2018. After this time, pharmacy performance information will only be available through Pharmacy Quality Solutions (PQS). PQS partnered with GSC to develop the Patient-Impact Scorecard and is responsible for calculating pharmacy performance scores.

PQS provides access to pharmacy performance information through the subscription-based platform EQuIP (or Electronic Quality Improvement Platform for Plans and Pharmacies). EQuIP is a web-based platform

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that displays performance information along with opportunities for improvement, and it offers more pharmacy performance data than shown on the Patient-Impact Scorecard.

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