



# PHARMACY

---

# UPDATE

---

National edition

**JANUARY 2022**

## **VALUE-BASED PHARMACY PHASE THREE – UPDATE**

Last June we announced that phase three of the Green Shield Canada (GSC) Value-based Pharmacy initiative – implementation of the value-based reimbursement framework – was being deferred to July 2022. Recently we have revisited that decision and, due to the current omicron wave and no predictable end in sight for the COVID-19 pandemic, we have decided to suspend phase three implementation indefinitely.

### **Pharmacists are vital front-line health care providers**

As vaccination efforts have expanded and accelerated over the past year, GSC recognizes that pharmacists have continued to play a critical role in Canada's response to the pandemic. Currently, they are stepping up to provide booster vaccinations for those eligible as well as first doses for children, and many pharmacies are providing COVID-19 testing. As the course of the pandemic continues, many provinces have expanded pharmacists' scope of practice and the services offered to support patients' critical medication needs. Suspension of phase three will allow pharmacists to continue to be focused in these areas.

### **What's next?**

No one knows whether or not omicron signals the beginning of the end of the COVID-19 crisis, and this uncertainty means we are all playing a waiting game. But eventually there will be a return to normal life – whatever that looks like – and we will reassess Value-based Pharmacy phase three at that time. When that happens, we will share that information in a future issue of Pharmacy Update.

#### **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).