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National Pharmacare

Thanks to the Federal NDP-Liberal party confidence and supply agreement during the years 2022-2024, and tireless work for the prior decade by Don Davies, NDP member for Vancouver-Kingsway, National Pharmacare became law in Canada in November 2024.

For National Pharmacare to help Canadians living with diabetes (and women of childbearing years wishing for contraception and those with post-menopausal symptoms who wish for HRT) individual provinces need to sign on. To date only BC, Saskatchewan and PEI have done so.

To date, the only official publicly available information is listed below

BC Gov publication
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare-for-bc-residents/national-pharmacare,

Health Canada publication
https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/corporate/transparency/health-agreements/national-pharmacare-bilateral-agreements/british-columbia.html

In BC the first phase will begin in March 6 2026 with first-dollar (zero cost to the client at the pharmacy) coverage of metformin, SGLT2 inhibitors (empagliflozin and dapagliflozin), DPP4 inhibitors (linagliptin, saxagliptin) and most insulins (regular/Toronto, NPH, glargine, lispro, aspart and glulisine). GLI-1 agents such as semaglutide (Ozempic) and tirzepatide (Mounjaro) will not be covered, however they will be considered during the next iteration of National Pharmacare, perhaps in 2027

In BC the second phase will begin sometime between March and November 2026 at which time coverage of some Diabetes Devices including CGMs (Dexcom and Libre) and insulin pumps will begin. Whether the coverage for CGMs and insulin pumps will be from the first dollar, which devices will be covered and what impact Diabetes Devices will have on the BC Pharmacare Deductible remains to be determined.

In the meantime, grants are available from the BC Diabetes Foundation, of which I am Chair, for individuals living with type 1 diabetes who do not have extended medical coverage and whose family income is <$125k annually. To apply for such a grant click here. To donate to the BC Diabetes Foundation click here.

Short URL = https://bit.ly/NationalPharmacareBC