



Patient Care + Research + Clinical Trials

Dr. Tom Elliott MBBS, FRCPC Medical Director

400 - 210 W Broadway phone: 604.683.3734
Vancouver, BC fax: 604.628.3821
V5Y 3W2 Canada email: moa@bcdiabetes.ca

BC Pharmacare, deductible & reassessments

BC Pharmacare (“Fair Pharmacare”) subsidizes the cost of many life saving & life changing medicines and devices - but not all. Notable exceptions in the diabetes field include [rapid insulins](#) (partial subsidy only). To find out if a drug is covered by BC Pharmacare click [here](#). Certain drugs that are covered require a Special Authority that has to be filled out by a physician. To find out if the drug requires a Special Authority click [here](#). In the diabetes field drugs requiring Special Authority include linagliptin, saxagliptin, empagliflozin, rosiglitazone and pioglitazone.

To be eligible for BC PharmaCare registration is required. To register online click [here](#) or call 604 683-7151 (Lower Mainland) or 1-800-663-7100 (Rest of BC).

The BC Pharmacare subsidy is subject to a deductible or threshold. This threshold is based on net family income from tax returns two years prior. If your income this year or last year is more than 10% lower than it was two years ago it is recommended that you apply for a [reassessment](#).

The BC Pharmacare deductible resets every year on January 1.

See [this table](#) to figure out where you and your family stand.

Families with assessed income < \$13,750 receive all BC Pharmacare endorsed medication and devices at no charge - they automatically qualify for a 100% Pharmacare subsidy.

Families with income in the \$13,750-30,000 range immediately qualify for a 70% Pharmacare subsidy but they need to spend 5% of the difference between their income and \$30,000 to qualify for a 100% subsidy. So a family earning \$20,000 per year will have to pay 5% of \$10,000 = \$500.

Families with income >\$30,000 have to spend 2.5-3.0 % of their total to get the 70% subsidy and 3.5-4.0% of their total to get 100% subsidy.

BCDiabetes believes that the current BC Pharmacare deductible policy unfairly targets the working poor and middle-income earners with families.