

## Empagliflozin Special Authority Update

On 2019-May-27 Minister of Health Adrian Dix announced [the long-awaited coverage](#) of empagliflozin, a member of the SGLT2 inhibitor class. This coverage is subject to the BC Pharmacare [deductible](#) and approval of a [Special Authority request](#).

In response to receiving thousands of Special Authority requests, this week BC Pharmacare announced a greatly simplified approval process.

As of Aug.22, 2019, empagliflozin coverage **was automatically approved** for all patients who met all of the following four criteria:

- 1) Any SGLT2 inhibitor (canagliflozin, dapagliflozin, empagliflozin) dispense recorded in PharmaNet between January 1 - June 30, 2019
- 2) Metformin dispense recorded in Pharmanet at any time
- 3) Sulfonylurea dispense recorded in Pharmanet at any time
- 4) No dispense recorded in Pharmanet for previously approved DPP-4 inhibitors (linagliptin, saxagliptin) or TZD (rosiglitazone, pioglitazone) during the period January 1 - June 30, 2019

**Manual approval** for patients with a new prescription for an SGLT2 inhibitor (no SGLT2-i dispensed during the period January 1 - June 30, 2019) can be obtained via either:

- a) physician call to the expedited phone line: 1-877-657-1188 (instant approval if conditions met)
- b) submission of a completed [Special Authority form](#) (delay of days to weeks because of backlog).

### **Special case DPP-4 inhibitor or TZD agent**

Patients who are currently on or received DPP-4 inhibitors (linagliptin, saxagliptin) or TZD (rosiglitazone, pioglitazone) during the period January 1 - June 30, 2019 require manual approval for an empagliflozin Special Authority (by phone or form, see above). Once empagliflozin is approved, coverage for DPP-4 or TZD will automatically cease. If Pharmacare receives a Special Authority request for a DPP-4i or TZD agent for patients with existing coverage for empagliflozin, physicians will be asked to clarify for which class of medication, SGLT2i or DPP-4/TZD, coverage is required.