



**Dr. Tom Elliott MBBS, FRCPC**  
**Medical Director**

400 - 210 W Broadway  
Vancouver, BC  
V5Y 3W2 Canada

phone: 604.683.3734  
fax: 604.628.3821  
email: moa@bcdiabetes.ca

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BCDiabetes was delighted with [Minister Dix's announcement](#) today that Special Authority applications for the SGLT2 inhibitor empagliflozin "Jardiance" and the GLP1 agonist semaglutide "Ozempic" will no longer require prior treatment with either sulfonylurea drugs (represented by glyburide and gliclazide, both considered dangerous/unsafe by Dr. Elliott) or insulin (a safe drug when sugar is measured frequently but an unnecessary step for individuals not already taking a shot). It was also announced that another SGLT2 inhibitor, dapagliflozin "Forxiga" would no longer require a Special Authority at all.

In the corridors of BCDiabetes this morning there was much whooping & hollering & high-fiving. The 400,000 British Columbians living with Type 2 diabetes are also celebrating.

BCDiabetes acknowledges Minister Dix's difficult job balancing the health budget and dealing with coverage requests from all directions (not just diabetes): we are grateful to him and his staff at Pharmacare for all their hard work. With the expected increase in SA submission a further challenge facing Pharmacare staff will be to reduce wait times for approvals of SA submissions from their current 3-4 week range down to < 1 week.

Today the main barrier to BCDiabetes clients getting access to the Ozempic (\$7/day) and Jardiance/Forxiga (\$3/day) is the existing BC Pharmacare Deductible. The existing Pharmacare Deductible threshold is set too low meaning that 70% of British Columbians who are approved for Ozempic, Jardiance, Forxiga and other expensive diabetes drugs including insulin (\$3-5/day) and devices (CGM \$10/day "Dexcom G6" and insulin pumps "OmniPod" and "Medtronic" both \$10/day) never get to benefit. For more on the Deductible read [this BCDiabetes petition](#) with almost 25,000 signatures arguing for the abolition of the deductible for people living with diabetes and sign if you agree.

BCDiabetes' next ask of Minister Dix will be changing the way the deductible is paid out. By default it is annual, such that on January 1 it resets to the full amount. BCDiabetes argues that by default the deductible should be payable with equal monthly payments (1/12 of the annual each month). Currently applying for the monthly deductible is onerous. For more on the Monthly Deductible, including instructions on how to apply, [see this one page](#).