

March 2003

Conditional Formulary™ Automation

Green Shield Canada is pleased to announce the completion of the first phase of an ongoing project to automate the adjudication of special authorization drugs on our Conditional Formulary™ plans. During the adjudication of such claims, a patient's claim history is reviewed for any drugs that are required for a special authorization drug to be a benefit. If a claim for such a prerequisite drug has been paid in the last twelve months, the special authorization drug may then be approved without requiring the completion of additional forms or paperwork.

Exception drugs that are currently being adjudicated in this fashion include:

- *Ditropan XL, Detrol*: Adjudication system will check for the presence of regular oxybutynin products in the previous twelve months.
- *Actos, Avandia*: Adjudication system will check for the presence of paid claims for metformin or a sulfonylurea within the previous twelve months.
- *Amaryl*: Adjudication system will check for the presence of paid claims for metformin and a sulfonylurea within the previous twelve months.
- *Xenical*: Adjudication will check for the presence of paid claims for metformin or a sulfonylurea within the previous twelve months. This is designed to be consistent with Xenical's indication for type II diabetes. Claims in which the reason for use does not include medication-controlled type II diabetes are still subject to manual special authorization.

If a claim for one of these special authorization drugs does not read the pre-requisite drugs as described above, a message will be seen stating that the drug must be authorized and the cardholder can contact Green Shield to obtain a Special Authorization Form and the applicable criteria sheet. More special authorization drugs will be incorporated into this automation project as Green Shield Canada expands this functionality and these drugs will be announced in future editions of this newsletter. The automatic approval process will also apply across Green Shield's lines of business. For example, drug claims for certain antineoplastics will allow the approval of medical items that are benefits only in the presence of a diagnosis of cancer (i.e. wigs).

Green Shield Canada hopes that this functionality and its future expansion will help to reduce some of the administrative issues associated with the special authorization process, both for pharmacists and Green Shield cardholders.

Online Adjudication of Lancets

Green Shield Canada plans recognize lancets as Extended Health (EHS) items, and as such they can not be adjudicated online. Such claims have always been manual, either by the cardholder or by the pharmacy. While still considered an EHS item, lancets may now be submitted electronically for OLTP adjudication in a similar fashion to a drug claim. In order to take advantage of this functionality, please use **PIN 19800** (with or without leading zeros) for all brands of lancets. Cardholders must have both drug and EHS coverage through Green Shield Canada, and such claims are not eligible for co-ordination of benefits. ***Please contact our Customer Service Centre for more information.***

If you have any other questions or require assistance with any matters concerning Green Shield Canada, please contact our Customer Service Centre at **1-888-711-1119**.

Topical Extemporaneous Compounds Policy

Eligible Ingredients

Camphor
Benzoin Tincture
Hydrocortisone Powder
Liquor Carbonis Detergens (LCD)
Menthol
Salicylic Acid
Sulfur
Tar Distillate
Erythromycin Powder
Clindamycin Powder
Ketoconazole Powder
Metronidazole Powder

Eligible Bases

Aquaphor Ointment (02009609)
Dermabase (00067350)
Glaxal Base (00295604)
Anhydrous Lanolin (01923129)
Petrolatum Jelly (00094854 or 00635189)
Schering Base (00985554)
Eucerin Ointment (00900907)
Taro Base (00960063)

One or more of any of the eligible ingredients may be added to:

1. any of the listed eligible bases; or
2. any topical drug product which is already a benefit of the individual's drug offering.

Compounding of two or more creams/ointments that are already benefits of the plan are eligible with or without additional eligible ingredients.

Compounds must contain an active ingredient in a therapeutic concentration that is an eligible benefit of the individual's offering.

Compounds for cosmetic purposes such as baldness dry skin or facial wrinkles are not eligible benefits.

Any compound (oral, topical, injectable, etc.) that duplicates the formulation of a manufactured pharmaceutical product is not eligible.

Unproven compounds are not eligible benefits. For example, drugs intended for oral use that are compounded into a topical mixture would be considered unproven.

Claims for compounds intended to be used orally, rectally, vaginally, injected, ophthalmic or otic preparations must contain a DIN of an eligible product to be covered. Compounds in which a pure chemical is used are ineligible. Any compounded item that is considered "experimental" in nature is ineligible.

Please note that any extemporaneous compound claim submitted electronically, though paid initially, will be reversed should the audit determine it ineligible, based on Green Shield Canada's Compound Policy.