

Green Shield Canada Initial Days Supply Program for New Prescriptions

Beginning in late September 2003, Green Shield Canada will be implementing a new program in which all **new** prescriptions for Green Shield benefits will be limited to an initial 30 day supply.

- If a Green Shield participant has not received a prescription for an identical drug within the last twelve months (filled at any pharmacy), the prescription will be considered new. If the days supply submitted on the initial prescription is greater than 30 days, the claim will be rejected. It may then be resubmitted for a reduced days supply. If such a claim is rejected, the pharmacy will receive a response message **“OF - initial Rx days supply exceeded.”**
- Changes in dose (i.e. levothyroxine 0.1mg to levothyroxine 0.125mg) and changes in brand (i.e. generic substitution) are **not** considered brand new prescriptions.
- This program will apply to all Green Shield Canada plans. However, there are situations in which such a quantity reduction may not be appropriate. Pharmacists are encouraged to use their professional judgement in these cases. For example:
 - The patient has received physician samples sufficient to constitute a reasonable trial of the new drug.
 - The drug was initiated and the patient stabilized in a hospital or institutional setting.
 - The patient is a new Green Shield participant who is already established on the new drug.
 - The patient is vacationing and will be unable to receive the balance of the prescription.

If the participant has such a reason to opt out, then the pharmacist must document the reason on the prescription. An intervention code of **“NH - Initial Rx program declined”** may be used to override.

- If a claim is resubmitted with a reduced days supply but without a corresponding reduction in quantity, the claim will also deny with the response code **“OC - Quantity reduction required.”** If it is not possible to further reduce the prescribed quantity, the intervention code **“NF – override-quantity appropriate”** may be used to override.

- All drug molecules will be affected by this program, with the exception of insulin. In addition, some individual products will be excluded where the smallest package size constitutes a supply greater than 30 days. (i.e. *Didrocal*). Prescriptions for less than 30 days supply will not be affected.

Green Shield Canada

Initial Days Supply Program

Typical Procedure

