

## EFFECTIVE June 15 2017

### Procedure for Billing Blood Glucose Test Strips (BGTS) Provincial Drug Programs

**Please include this Notice in your DPIN Manual under  
Section 4: Claims Submission.**

#### **Background:**

- The Diabetes Canada Guidelines describe use of Blood Glucose Test Strips (BGTS) as a support to therapy and not a therapy in itself. BGTS results inform medication dosing and lifestyle choices such as exercise and diet. When individuals learn and follow an appropriate testing regimen such as outlined in Diabetes Canada Guidelines, outcomes are better in two ways – patients make more appropriate lifestyle choices and also have better clinical outcomes (A1C, blood pressure, lipids).
- As an aid to compliance with the Diabetes Canada Guidelines and Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) recommendations, the following benefit limits are established for BGTS:
  - 3650 test strips per year for individuals using insulin;
  - 400 test strips per year for individuals using oral diabetic agents with high risk of hypoglycemia;
  - 200 test strips per year for individuals using oral diabetic agents with low risk of hypoglycemia or managing their diabetes with diet and exercise alone.

#### **Procedure:**

- When initially filling a prescription for BGTS, based on the patient's treatment regimen, the pharmacist selects one of the following PINs:

PIN/Name	Treatment Regimen	Comments/Examples	Approved Quantity
00993650 <i>Person with diabetes using Insulin</i>	Managing diabetes with insulin	This higher limit applies whether or not the patient is also taking other diabetes medications	3,650 strips per benefit year
00999400 <i>Person with diabetes using Oral - High Risk</i>	Managing diabetes with medication with a higher risk of causing low blood sugar	gliclazide (Diamicon®), glyburide (Diabeta), repaglinide (Gluconorm®), chlorpropamide, tolbutamide, Glimepiride (Amaryl®)	400 strips per benefit year
00999200 <i>Person with diabetes using Low Risk Oral or diet/lifestyle therapy</i>	Managing diabetes with medication with a lower risk of causing low blood sugar	acarbose (Glucobay®), linagliptin (Trajenta®), metformin (Glucophage®), pioglitazone (Actos), rosiglitazone (Avandia®), saxagliptin (Onglyza®), sitagliptin (Januvia®), canagliflozin (Invokana®), dapagliflozin (Forxiga®)	200 strips per benefit year
	Managing diabetes through diet/lifestyle therapy		200 strips per benefit year

- When filling a follow-up prescription for BGTS, check diabetes medication therapy to confirm use of correct PIN. A change in medication therapy may require a change in PIN used and may affect the benefit limit for the current fiscal year. Changes in the use of PIN are subject to audit.
- As of June 15, 2017, pharmacists submit claims for BGTS using the three new PINs and cease using the previously assigned individual product PINs.
- The **Drug Cost** is the cost of ingredients. Pricing for drug ingredients is based on the pricing in the Manitoba Drug Benefits Formulary and the Manitoba Interchangeability Formulary.
- **The Professional Fee** is the usual and customary “professional Fee” as submitted according to Schedule “A” or “B” of the Pharmacy Agreement.

#### Note Exceptions:

**Additional test strips per benefit year** may be approved for coverage as benefits according to Exception Drug Status (EDS) review processes for patients who:

- 1) have been directed by their nurse practitioner or physician to monitor their blood glucose levels more closely, **and**
  - 2) meet at least one of the following criteria:
    - ✓ Occupation that requires strict avoidance of hypoglycemia for safety reasons (e.g., pilots, air-traffic controllers, commercial drivers, critical positions in railways, etc.)
    - ✓ Not meeting glycemic targets, as determined by the physician, primary health care provider, pharmacist, or diabetes educator for 3 months or greater
    - ✓ Changes in drug therapy that may impact blood glucose control (e.g. starting or stopping hypo or hyperglycemic inducing medication, drug/drug interaction, drug/disease interaction)
    - ✓ Acute illness, or infection that may affect blood glucose control over a sustained period of time
    - ✓ Gestational diabetes
- Physicians and Nurse Practitioners prescribing within their scope of practice may apply for EDS. Requests can be submitted by telephone, by mail or by fax.
    - The telephone number to access this line is (204) 788-6388 or 1-800-557-4303.
    - The fax number is (204) 942-2030 or 1-877-208-3588.
    - EDS requests must include:
      - **Patient’s Name**
      - **Patient’s Personal Health Information Number (PHIN)**
      - **Reason for increase (see criteria above)**
      - **Primary Care Provider Name and Phone Number**
  - Patient purchases beyond the benefit cap are not eligible for benefit status and the patient is responsible for the cost of the excess BGTS.

**If you have questions or concerns, please contact** [PDPIInfo&Audit@gov.mb.ca](mailto:PDPIInfo&Audit@gov.mb.ca)

**Diabetes Canada guidelines** can be found at:

<http://guidelines.diabetes.ca/bloodglucoselowering/smbgrecommendationsheet>.