



Quebec Drug Plan Covers Smoking Cessation Products

As of October 1, 2000, Quebec has added three smoking cessation products to the list of drugs covered by the Quebec Drug Insurance Plan.

As required by Quebec's Bill 33, Great-West is duplicating this coverage for Quebec residents covered under all drug plans, including those plans that currently exclude smoking cessation products.

We anticipate a one to three per cent rate increase to your Quebec drug claims costs, depending on whether your plan currently includes or excludes smoking cessation products. Your Great-West financial security advisor will discuss with you whether a rate increase is required at your next renewal.

Covered Drugs

All drug plans in Quebec will now cover the following drugs, when prescribed by a physician:

- Nicoderm patches and Zyban under regular plan benefits

- Nicorette Gum under the exception list, covered only when a patient cannot tolerate Nicoderm or Zyban.

Not all smoking cessation products, such as Habitrol or Nicotrol, are on the Quebec Drug Plan listing. These drugs will not be covered under private plans with the smoking cessation exclusion. For those plans that cover smoking cessation products, Habitrol and Nicotrol will be limited to a plan's lifetime smoking cessation maximum for Quebec residents.

Claims Reimbursement

Quebec legislation stipulates private plans provide the same coverage provided by the government drug program. Claims for eligible smoking cessation drugs will be reimbursed at a minimum payment of 75 per cent of the charge.

From October 1, 2000 to December 31, 2001, your plan will cover up to \$625 in charges for both Zyban and

Nicoderm patches. In following years, a dollar maximum of \$500 is allowed for these two drugs, per calendar year. Coverage is limited to 12 consecutive weeks in a 12-month period for Nicorette gum.

For More Information

The Quebec Minister of Health and Social Services announced this new coverage on September 20, 2000. The Minister's announcement is available, in French only, on the Government of Quebec's Web site: <http://communiqués.gouv.qc.ca/gouvqc/communiqués/GPQF/Septembre2000/20/c5407.html>. Please note this Web site was current as of October 6, 2000.

If you have any additional questions, please contact your group insurance representative.

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