Manitoba
Health

	Policy Category/Number	**HCS 200.18**
POLICY TITLE	**Date Approved**	**Feb. 6, 2013**
SCHEDULED BULLETINS	**Applicable to:**	**Manitoba Health**
Branch/Division	**Next Review Date**	**February 2017**
Provincial Drug Programs/Provincial Policy and Programs	**Date Reviewed**	**February 2015**
Responsible Authority **Executive Director, Provincial Drug Programs**	**Date Revised**	
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1.0 Policy Statement

Manitoba Health issues Bulletins updating the list of products included as benefits under the Manitoba Pharmacare Program – specifically those products listed on the Manitoba Drug Benefits Formulary and/or the Manitoba Interchangeability Formulary.

2.0 Background

Products may be added to either or both of the Formularies at the direction of the Minister of Health following review by and based on the recommendations of the Manitoba Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee (MDSTC).

Adding a product to a Bulletin to update a Formulary is dependent on receipt of submissions by drug companies that result in the MDSTC reviewing products and making recommendations for addition of one or more drug products to either or both of the Formularies. Submissions identify the benefit and the anticipated cost of adding the drug product to either or both of the Formularies. Once it is determined that a drug product is appropriate to be added to a Formulary, Manitoba Health may enter into an Agreement with the manufacturer of the drug product.

The submission process and signing of an Agreement is not required when a product has already been listed on a Formulary and the change is to a dosage or form only.

3.0 Purpose

Establishing a timeline for the process for issuing a Bulletin supports all parties (Manitoba Health, Legislative Counsel, the Office of the Minister of Health, Finance, and drug manufacturers) in planning work and strengthens the quality of work and the likelihood of successful completion. The end result is improved patient access to cost-effective pharmaceutical therapies. This policy outlines the responsibilities of parties who contribute to the addition of a drug product to a Formulary.

4.0 Definitions

Agreement: A legal agreement executed between Manitoba Health and a drug manufacturer before a drug product may be specified and listed under the Specified Drugs Regulation of the Prescription Drugs Cost Assistance Act. Agreements are a listing requirement for all products with the exception of “Line Extension Products”.

Bulletin: A document published and issued by Manitoba Health to inform recipients of approved changes made to the Manitoba Drug Benefits Formulary and/or to the Manitoba Interchangeability Formulary.

Effective Date: The date that the product and price listings in an issued Bulletin become effective.

Issue Date: The date that a Bulletin is issued to the public.

Line Extension Product: A new strength, formulation or re-formulation of a drug product.

Manitoba Drug Benefits Formulary: A list of therapeutically effective drugs of proven high quality that have been approved as eligible benefits under the Manitoba Pharmacare drug benefit program and found in Schedule A to the Specified Drugs Regulation under the Prescription Drugs Cost Assistance Act.

Manitoba Drug Standards and Therapeutics Committee: A committee independent of government that provides recommendations to the Minister of Health on drug interchangeability and on the therapeutic and economic value of drug benefits.

Manitoba Interchangeability Formulary: A list of interchangeable drugs in the Manitoba Interchangeability Formulary Regulation under the Pharmaceutical Act.

Prescription Drugs Payment of Benefit Regulation: A Regulation of the Prescription Drugs Cost Assistance Act which defines the cost of a specified drug and the price of a specified drug.

5.0 Policy

5.1 Receiving Agreement

- The signed and executed Agreement must be received by Manitoba Health by the end of the business day on the first Tuesday of the month preceding the Issue Date of the Bulletin. If that date falls on a Statutory Holiday, the receiving date will be the next business day that follows that day.
- An executed Agreement that is received after the designated date prior to the Issue Date of the Bulletin will be processed for inclusion in the next regularly scheduled Bulletin.

5.2 Line Extension Product Listings

- A product may be listed in a Bulletin without a new Agreement when there are new strengths, formulations or re-formulations of drug products that are already listed in the Manitoba Drug Benefits Formulary and/or the Manitoba Interchangeability Formulary.

5.3 Processing of Information to be Included in Scheduled Bulletin

- Manitoba Health staff complete steps internal to the organization that include drafting the revisions to the Prescription Drugs Payment of Benefit Regulation (Regulation) and the registration of the revised Regulation following signing by the Minister of Health.

5.4 Issuing of a Bulletin

- After processing of information has been completed, a Bulletin is issued quarterly, in the third week of March, June, September and December.
- A Bulletin lists the changes and updates made to drug products listed in either Formulary.
- When published, the Bulletin is provided to pharmacists, prescribers, other health care providers, medical clinics, pharmacies, hospitals, and any business, company or organization associated with the manufacture, distribution, and use of drug products in the province of Manitoba.

5.5 Effective Date of a Bulletin

- A Bulletin becomes effective 30 days after the Issue Date during the third week of the month following the issuing of a Bulletin, that is January, April, July, and October.

5.6 Exceptions

- In the event that no changes are required for either Formulary, the Minister of Health may cancel the scheduled publication of a Bulletin
- In the event that changes are required for either Formulary in advance of the scheduled publication date, the Minister of Health may elect to publish an additional Bulletin.
- In the event that circumstances do not permit a 30 day interval between the Issue Date and the Effective Date of a Bulletin, the Minister of Health may elect to change the interval.

8.0 Resource Documents

- Table of Dates for Scheduled Bulletins

Cycle	Receive Signed and Executed Agreement by end of business day	Bulletin Issue Date	Bulletin Effective Date
One	First Tuesday in February	In the Third Week of March	In the Third Week of April
Two	First Tuesday in May	In the Third Week of June	In the Third Week of July
Three	First Tuesday in August	In the Third Week of September	In the Third Week of October
Four	First Tuesday in November	In the Third Week of December	In the Third Week of January of next year