

May 1, 2020

Mr. Glen Doucet
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Pharmacists Association
1785 Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3Y6
gdoucet@pharmacists.ca service@pharmacists.ca info@pharmacists.ca

Re: Dispensing fees at pharmacies

Dear Mr. Doucet,

As National President of the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada, I am writing you today regarding the decision made by CPhA to limit refills to 30 days instead of 90. This is apparently intended to reduce possible drug shortages

Our country is on a virtual lockdown and millions of Canadians have lost their primary source of income. Families are struggling to pay the rent or mortgage, pay monthly bills and put food on the table.

To make matters worse, a recent decision from the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) has made it more expensive for people to get the medications they need.

This decision hurts Canadians by forcing them to pay for a dispensing fee every month for each 30-day refill, instead of paying one dispensing fee for the customary 90-day refill.

The CPhA decision is especially impactful for people on fixed incomes, such as thousands of our members who are seniors, who are made even more vulnerable by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Your decision is additionally forcing people to visit the pharmacy more often than usual to get monthly refills. This is an issue for a lot of seniors who live in small communities, like I do where pharmacies are quite small and social distancing is not easy. This increases the risk of infection for people who have underlying medical conditions and are living with disabilities.

Some seniors and others, may be forced to skip their medications or cut their pills in half to stretch their prescriptions in order to avoid the extra pharmacy dispensing fees and visits to public places that may be a risk to some.

I urge you to immediately recommend that pharmacies waive the dispensing fees for refills on medications that would usually be filled for more than 30-days, to lessen the financial burden and eliminate the additional barriers to people getting the medications they need.

Sincerely,



Bill Chedore
National President
Congress of Union Retirees of Canada
PH: 905-517-1718

cc: The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health, patty.hajdu@parl.gc.ca
Tyler Gogo, Strategic Communications Manager, CPhA, tgogo@pharmacists.ca

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