Biologics, SEBs and YOU!

Biologics

have revolutionized treatment of some chronic illnesses

What are biologics?

- Specialized
- Can be life-saving
- Made from living organisms
- Not a cure
- Replicate our enzymes/antibodies/hormones

BUT! Biologics cost A LOT!

DEMAND and **COST** for biologics are... **GROWING**

$

DEMAND

Canadians spent $1.55 billion on biologics in 2012/13

Challenging the sustainability of your private drug plan and access to these specialized drugs.

$20K+ Typical cost of Biologics per patient per year

$20K → **$100K**

Nearly $1 out of every $5 is spent on average on biologics—often to treat less than 1% of plan members

Specialty Drug Spend in Canada

UP 2.5X

$18/person 2007/2008

$45/person 2012/2013

A New Wave of Biologics is coming...

SEBs are an affordable type of biologic

What are SEBs?

Subsequent Entry Biologics (SEBs) drugs

Demonstrate similarity to the original off-patent biologic drug

- More affordable
- Safe, sustainable
- Also called biosimilars
- Not generic drugs

SEBs are...

SAFE

Since 2006, SEBs have been available in Europe and have had NO related safety issues.

SUSTAINABLE

DOWN 20-30%

SEBs cost 20 - 30% less than their original biologic drugs.

APPROVED

Health Canada

SEBs have to meet the same stringent Health Canada New Drug Submission process as original biologics. Health Canada only approves SEBs that have proven similarity in safety and effectiveness compared to the original biologic.

Example

Inflectra is the SEB of **REMICADE,** used for rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, among other uses.

REMICADE **$33K** /year/Member

Inflectra **$21K** /year/Member

SEBs are good news for your drug plan!

For all Reformulary plan members...

In Canada, SEBs are not yet considered "interchangeable" with original biologics. This means under the Reformulary, you will not have to automatically switch to an SEB.

If your drug plan is Powered by Reformulary, Inflectra is a preferred drug within the Reformulary Special Authorization program.

Are you already taking a biologic drug?

You may continue taking this biologic and will not be switched to an SEB. The biologic drug you're taking is grandfathered.

Are you being prescribed a biologic for the first time?

You are required to first try the SEB and/or the preferred biologic. If you become intolerant or if the SEB stops working, you may try one of the other original biologics.

IMPORTANT! Adherence
Keep taking your medication as prescribed, and do not stop taking it because you are feeling better.

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