

Access and Coverage of HIV medications across Canada

The federal, provincial, and territorial governments offer varying levels of medication coverage. Each may have different eligibility, enrollment fees, premiums and/or deductibles. Canadian residents moving from one province/territory to another continue to be covered by their “home” province/territory for a period of 3 months. Upon moving, an individual should apply for provincial health coverage in the new province, and after a waiting period of 3 months, the new province assumes the health coverage. Patients should be advised to obtain a 3 month supply of their medications from their “home” province to bridge this gap.

www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hcs-sss/pharma/acces/ptprog-eng.php

First Nations people and Inuit may also access services through Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program.

<http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/nihb-ssna/index-eng.php>

The list of drugs that are provided as a benefit of the NIHB program can be found at:

http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/english/services/health_care_plan/pdf/drug_benefit_list.pdf

Other federal programs include:

Canadian Forces Health Services: <http://www.forces.gc.ca/health-sante/default-eng.asp>

Interim Federal Health program:

<http://www.fasadmin.com/main.asp?language=english&page=pdf&clientid=9999&name=Interim+Federal+Health+Program%2FProgramme+F%E9d%E9ral+De+Sant%E9+Int%E9rimaire&Mode=All>

Public Service Health Care plan: <http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/hr-rh/bp-rasp/benefits-avantages/hcp-rss/overview-contexte-eng.asp>

Veterans Affairs Canada Prescription Drug program: <http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/providers/sub.cfm?source=services/poc/poc10>

Province	Provincial Drug Program	ARVs and HIV-associated medications covered by province	Pharmacies that can dispense ARVs (days/hours of operation)	Prescriber restrictions?	Coverage of prescription if filled outside of home province	Other
Alberta	Alberta Health and Wellness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provincewide services http://www.health.alberta.ca/AHCIP/provincewide-services.html www.ab.bluecross.ca	All ARVs covered, but HIV-associated drugs require a third party plan eg. Alberta Blue Cross	<u>Calgary</u> Southern Alberta Clinic for HIV/AIDS or Foothills Hospital out patient pharmacy; M-F, 8am to 4pm <u>Edmonton:</u> University of Alberta Hospital Rexall pharmacy M-F 8am to 6pm,	Alberta infectious disease physician, or family physician/internal medicine physicians currently having a clinical practice in an HIV setting.	Provincial program will not reimburse patient for prescriptions filled outside of province	Patient covered by IFH, consider sending patient to: <u>Calgary</u> Southern Alberta Clinic for HIV/AIDS

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			Sat 8am to 1pm or Royal Alexandra Hospital Rexall pharmacy M-F 9am to 5pm			or Foothills Hospital out patient pharmacy; M-F, 8am to 4pm <u>Edmonton:</u> University of Alberta Hospital Rexall M-F 8-6pm, Sat 8-1pm or Royal Alexandra Hospital Rexall M-F 9-5pm
British Columbia	<p>Medical Services Plan of BC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BC Pharmacare - BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS Drug Treatment Program (BC CfE DTP) <p>www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/</p>	<p>All ARVs, some HIV-associated medications (some restrictions for indication). Must receive prior authorization from BC CfE DTP, before dispensing.</p> <p>See www.cfenet.ubc.ca for</p>	<p>St. Paul's Hospital (SPH) ambulatory pharmacy – in general patients must have seen a clinical pharmacist first (ie booked appointments) M-F 7-5 pm (open until 8 pm on Tue, Wed)</p> <p>BC's Children's Hospital Ambulatory Care</p>	<p>Any licensed physician in BC can order ARVs</p> <p>Must receive prior authorization from BC CfE DTP, before dispensing.</p>	<p>Medications not reimbursed by program if filled in another province</p>	<p>Patient covered by IFH, consider sending patient to:</p> <p>St. Paul's Hospital (SPH) ambulatory pharmacy</p>

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		updated list	<p>Pharmacy. M-F 0900-1630hr, closed for lunch 1230-1330hr Patients are seen by Oak Tree Clinic team and meds dispensed via the BCCH Ambulatory Care Pharmacy</p> <p>Other Offsite pharmacies – call SPH ambulatory pharmacy at 604-806-8151 ext 4 for further information.</p>			– M-F 7-5 pm (open until 8 pm on Tue, Wed)
Manitoba	<p>Manitoba Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmacare – annual deductible based on % of income, then Manitoba Health pays 100% Social assistance/welfare – meds covered by Manitoba Health <p>http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/index.html#1</p>	<p>All ARVs (except maraviroc) covered with some requiring prior approval for Exceptional Drug Status (EDS). Different requirements for EDS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone or fax (immediate approval): Atripla, Truvada, Raltegravir, Etravirine Fax (delayed approval): Darunavir, Enfuvirtide, Tipranavir, 	Any retail pharmacy can dispense ARVs	Any licensed physician can prescribe ARVs	Provincial program will reimburse patient for prescriptions filled outside of province for up to 6 months.	<p>Patient covered by IFH, consider sending patient to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pharmacies familiar with IFH such as those affiliated with hospitals/ HIV clinics

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		Fosamprenavir, Tenofovir EDS criteria based on CADTH recommendations				
New Brunswick	New Brunswick Medicare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program (NBPDP), Plan U http://www.gnb.ca/0051/0212/index-e.asp	Many ARVs covered, some require special authorization http://www.gnb.ca/0212/NBPDPFormulary-e.asp	All provincially covered ARVs must be filled at: Meditrust Pharmacy Services Saint.John, NB 506-674-4444	ARVs covered by provincial plan must be prescribed by ID specialist	Medications not reimbursed by program if filled in another province	
Newfoundland & Labrador	Newfoundland Department of Health and Community Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP) http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/nlpdp/default.htm	Most ARV's covered, though some require special authorization approval. NOTE: the online NLPDP formulary does not list HIV medications, or criteria for special authorization approvals.	Most patients receive their ARV's through: Health Sciences Pharmacy (709-777-6244) but any pharmacy may fill ARV. A phone call to NLPDP is required to arrange approval for special authorization medications to be filled at community pharmacies.	No specific restriction around physicians prescribing ARV, though in practice it's predominantly the ID specialists who prescribe them.	Medications not reimbursed by program if filled in another province	
North West Territories	North West Territories Health Care Plan	Most ARV's covered, though some require special authorization	Any pharmacy can dispense ARVs	Any licensed physician can prescribe ARVs	Territorial program will reimburse	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIHB http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/nihb-ssna/index-eng.php • Metis Health Benefits http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/english/services/health_care_plan/metis_benefits/default.htm • Extended benefits for Specific Disease (eg HIV/AIDS) administered by Alberta Blue Cross on behalf of the govt of NWT http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/english/services/health_care_plan/specified_diseases/default.htm 	<p>approval. All three programs cover medications listed on the NIHB formulary</p> <p>http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/english/services/health_care_plan/pdf/drug_benefit_list.pdf</p>			<p>patient for prescriptions filled outside of NWT for up to 3 months.</p>	
Nova Scotia	<p>Nova Scotia Department of Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial high 	<p>All ARVs are covered (http://www.gov.ns.ca/health/Pharmacare/formulary.asp)</p>	<p>Consider: pharmacy at Capital District Health</p>	<p>Only prescribers are 3 ID physicians plus 1 PharmD</p>	<p>Medications likely not reimbursed if filled in</p>	<p>Patient covered by IFH, consider</p>

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	<p>cost drug program (includes ARVs)</p> <p>http://www.gov.ns.ca/health/pharmacare/</p>		<p>Authority</p> <p>If patients have private insurance then they can have Rx filled at drugstore but co-pay can be charged to High Cost program.</p>		another province	<p>sending patient to:</p> <p>Capital District Health Authority 1276 Tower Road, Rm 2-043 Victoria Building Halifax, NS</p>
Nunavut	<p>Nunavut Health Care Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIHB • Extended health benefits program <p>http://www.gov.nu.ca/health/</p>	<p>Most ARV's covered, though some require special authorization approval -NIHB formulary used</p> <p>http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/english/services/health_care_plan/pdf/drug_benefit_list.pdf</p>	Any pharmacy can dispense ARVs	Any licensed physician may prescribe ARVs.	Territorial program will reimburse patient for prescriptions filled outside of Nunavut for up to 1 yr.	
Ontario	<p>Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program • Ontario Works (OW) • Ontario Disability 	<p>Most ARVs with some restrictions requiring prior approval (http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/drugs/odb_mn.html)</p> <p>Zidovudine (capsules,</p>	<p>Any pharmacy can dispense ARVs.</p> <p>For zidovudine (alone), only a pharmacy affiliated through the ODDMP can dispense AZT free of charge.</p>	-technically, ARVs and several HIV-associated medications are covered if prescriber is registered with the facilitated	Medications not reimbursed if filled in another province	<p>Patient covered by IFH, consider sending patient to:</p> <p>- pharmacie</p>

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	<p>Support Program (ODSP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trillium Drug Program <p>All programs require application, not automatic with Ontario health card</p> <p>http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/drugs/odb.html</p>	liquid) covered by application to Ontario Drug Distribution/Monitoring Program (ODDMP)		access program (physicians having a clinical practice in an HIV setting)		s familiar with IFH such as those affiliated with hospitals/ HIV clinics
Prince Edward Island	<p>PEI Health and Social Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEI Drug Costs Assistance Program (DCAP) - HIV/AIDS program <p>http://www.gov.pe.ca/sss/index.php3?number=45156&lang=E</p>	Most ARVs with some requiring special authorization (http://www.gov.pe.ca/sss/index.php3?number=45156&lang=E)	All provincially covered ARVs must be filled at: Provincial Pharmacy Charlottetown, PEI 902-368-4947 M-F 8-4 pm (summer) M-F 8:30-5pm (winter)	Any physician may prescribe ARVs	Medications not reimbursed if filled in another province	Any pharmacy can bill IFH (except Provincial Pharmacy)
Quebec	Universal prescription coverage for QC citizens	All ARVs except for the following: -raltegravir -darunavir -tipranavir	Any pharmacy can dispense ARVs.	Any physician may prescribe ARVs	Medications not reimbursed if filled in another	Any pharmacy can bill IFH

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	<p>Patients will either have public insurance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec or • private insurance through their employer. <p>http://www.ramq.gouv.qc.ca/en/citoyens/assurancemedicaments/index.shtml</p>	<p>-maraviroc -enfuvirtide -etravirine</p> <p>There are criteria for these médicaments d'exception drugs (see resources).</p> <p>http://www.ramq.gouv.qc.ca/en/regie/lois/liste_med.shtml</p>			province	
Saskatchewan	<p>Saskatchewan Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saskatchewan Prescription Drug plan (SPDP) – many types of beneficiaries <p>The Special Support Program is available to help those whose drug costs are high in relation to their income. This program is not automatic and can</p>	<p>Must request Provincial Drug Plan's Exceptional Drug Status (EDS) for all ARVs for each patient. Many new ARVs have more restricted criteria than just treatment of HIV/AIDS: darunavir, tipranavir, raltegravir, etravirine, maraviroc, enfuvirtide</p> <p>http://formulary.drugplan.health.gov.sk.ca/</p>	Any Saskatchewan licensed pharmacy can dispense ARVs, although the majority would not carry these agents and there are usually a few main pharmacies in each centre	Under the direction of an ID specialist, but some GPs have been able to renew prescription	Provincial program will reimburse patients filled outside of province for 6 months.	<p>Patient covered by IFH, consider sending patient to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pharmacies familiar with IFH such as those affiliated with hospitals (eg.

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	<p>be reviewed whenever income or cost of drugs change</p> <p>Residents who require immediate treatment with covered prescription drugs and are unable to cover their share of the cost may access the "Emergency Assistance Program."</p> <p>http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/drug-plan-benefits</p>					Saskatoon Health Region) or HIV clinics
Yukon	<p>Yukon Health Care Insurance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chronic Disease and Disability Benefits Program (eg. HIV/AIDS) <p>http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/programs/insured_hearing/chronic_disease/</p>	<p>Most ARVs, not all</p> <p>http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/downloads/367_YUKON%20DRUG%20PROGRAMS%20FORMULARY%202009.pdf</p>	<p>Any pharmacy can dispense HIV medications.</p> <p>Yukon pharmacies will accept prescription from out of province/territory prescriber</p>	Based on recommendation by ID specialist	Yukon Health will reimburse patient for prescriptions filled outside of territory for 6 months.	