

Dispensing Fees

Prescription Drug Information



Did you know the total cost of filling a prescription includes more than just the medication itself?

Every prescription is made up of two components:

- The cost of the drug's ingredients, and
- A dispensing fee, which covers the pharmacist's professional services and advice.

Dispensing fees can vary between pharmacies and between medications.

When filling a prescription, you can go to any pharmacy you choose. When deciding where to go, consider not only the cost but also the pharmacist's familiarity with your health history and your comfort level with the provider. If you would like to know the dispensing fee for a particular medication, you are welcome to ask the pharmacy directly. You also have the option to transfer your prescription to a different pharmacy at any time.

To help manage costs, we recommend requesting a three-month supply whenever possible. This is especially beneficial for medications taken on a regular basis — such as oral contraceptives, insulin, or blood pressure medication — as it reduces the frequency of dispensing fees.

Please note that a specific portion of your current supply must be used before a refill will be covered by your plan. Check with your pharmacist to confirm when you're eligible. If you're travelling and need an early refill to cover a longer period, contact your pharmacy or insurance provider to request an exception.

Average Dispensing Fees by Pharmacy by Province

Pharmacy	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON
CareRx	\$9.99	\$11.68	\$12.06	-	\$9.05
Costco Pharmacy*	\$4.33	\$4.00	\$4.33	\$4.36	\$4.34
DRUGStore Pharmacy (Superstore/No Frills/Extra Foods)	\$9.78	\$11.71	\$11.92	\$10.10	\$10.24
Independent	\$10.26	\$11.88	\$11.95	\$16.33	\$10.66
Loblaws Pharmacy	\$9.16	\$10.21	\$11.94	\$8.68	\$10.33
London Drugs	\$9.25	\$11.10	\$11.00	\$8.91	-
Metro	-	-	-	-	\$9.68
Pharma Plus	-	-	-	\$14.62	\$10.80
PharmaChoice	\$10.53	\$11.89	\$11.98	\$17.72	\$10.80
Pharmasave	\$11.08	\$11.87	\$11.99	\$14.76	\$10.90
PocketPills (Digital Pharmacy)	\$10.42	-	-	\$9.51	\$11.08
Rexall	\$11.40	\$11.93	\$12.05	\$14.66	\$10.94
Safeway	\$9.54	\$11.67	\$11.82	\$14.01	\$10.39
Save-On-Foods	\$9.90	\$11.86	\$11.97	\$11.93	-
Shoppers Drug Mart/Pharmaprix	\$11.19	\$11.81	\$11.95	\$13.46	\$11.57
Sobeys/Lawtons/Thrifty Foods/Fresh Co.	\$9.95	\$11.86	\$11.93	\$13.96	\$10.31
The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy	\$10.36	\$11.87	\$11.99	\$16.16	\$10.71
Value Drug Mart	\$10.01	\$11.91	-	-	-
Walmart	\$9.76	\$11.63	\$11.57	\$10.25	\$9.61

*Costco Membership is not required to access their Pharmacy