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## ***CPhA launching new health coaching programs with Green Shield***

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### **New pharmacist coaching on diabetes and asthma in BC for GSC eligible patients.**

WRITTEN BY SONYA FELIX ON FEBRUARY 15, 2017 FOR CANADIANHEALTHCARENETWORK.CA



After years of talking about the need to add more clinical services, the B.C. Pharmacy Association (BCPhA) decided it was time to do something about.

So, building on a cardiovascular risk management program launched with Green Shield Canada (GSC) in 2015, BCPhA has again teamed up with GSC to introduce two new pharmacist coaching programs for type 2 diabetes and asthma.

“We’re walking the talk,” says Derek Desrosiers, director of pharmacy practice support for BCPhA. “The idea is to demonstrate the importance of extended pharmacy services.”

Early this year, pharmacist coaching on type 2 diabetes and asthma will be available to beneficiaries of BCPhA’s health insurance plan through GSC. “That includes all the staff at our office and a large number of pharmacies who purchase insurance from us to cover their employees,” explains Desrosiers.

*BCPhA’s Derek Desrosiers*

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As with the ongoing cardiovascular program, pharmacists who want to provide the new services will be required to take online, self-directed training for type 2 diabetes and asthma. Green Shield will then pay pharmacists a fee for an initial consult (\$80 for diabetes) and a certain number of follow-ups (\$30 for diabetes) for eligible patients.

BCPhA is encouraging as many pharmacists as possible to take the training, whether they have eligible patients or not. An article in the association’s Jan/Feb 2017 Tablet about the new diabetes service notes that it will “make a statement to payers if a majority of pharmacists take the program and show they want to expand clinical services.”

Results of the new programs will be tracked by Green Shield, says Desrosiers. “They’ll be looking at patients who’ve had the service and measuring adherence before and after pharmacist coaching. Green Shield will also look at other claims and whether there were changes to drug therapies as a result of pharmacist intervention.”

Pharmacies, however, won’t be tracking results. “Although we’d like to track other things such as whether there will be fewer visits to emergency rooms, we don’t have access to that kind of data,” Desrosiers adds.