

**New Brunswick Drug Plan**  
**Changes to Premiums and Copayments November 1, 2022**

**Q 1. What are the changes?**

The changes to the plan include

- adjusting gross income levels, premiums, and co-payments to reflect changes in drug costs, earnings, inflation, and cost of living since 2014; and,
- increasing the number of premium levels (income ranges) from 6 to 21.

**Q 2. Why are the changes being made?**

The changes are necessary to ensure a balance is maintained between affordability for members and cost for government, and to make sure the plan is sustainable and affordable in the long term and continues to provide the drug benefits members need.

**Q 3. Why are more premium levels being added to the New Brunswick Drug Plan?**

The additional premium levels will provide a more gradual change when premiums increase. It will eliminate situations where plan members have a large increase in their premium due to a small growth to their income.

The additional premium levels will also make the Plan fairer and more affordable, especially for lower-income earners. The lowest premium will be reduced from \$200 to \$66 a year.

**Q 4. Have the income ranges and premiums ever been adjusted?**

There have been no changes to the income ranges, premiums and maximum co-payments since 2015 when the two lowest premiums were added. There have been no changes to reflect growth in drug costs, earnings, inflation, or cost of living since the Plan was implemented in 2014.

**Q 5. When will the new premiums and maximum copayments become effective?**

The new premiums and maximum copayments become effective November 1, 2022.

**Q 6. What impact will the changes have on members of the New Brunswick Drug Plan?**

The premiums will decrease for some members and increase for others.

To moderate the impact of larger premium increases, members who were enrolled on July 1, 2022 may be eligible to have their premium phased-in over time. For phased-in members, premium increases due to the redesign will be capped at \$150 per year (\$12.50 per month) for up to five years for eligible members. The cap will not apply to members who decide to leave the plan and later re-enroll.

**Q 7. How is my premium calculated if I have not provided consent for the CRA to release my income to the New Brunswick Drug Plan?**

If you have not provided consent for the CRA to release your income, you are charged the maximum premium. Effective November 1, 2022, the maximum annual premium will increase from \$2,000 to \$2,660. If your income would result in a lower premium, you must complete and submit Section 3 – Consent to Release Income Tax Information, on page two of the Application Form, if you would like to have your premium reassessed.

You may obtain an Application Form [online](#) or by calling the New Brunswick Drug Plan toll-free at 1-855-540-7325.

**Q 8. What will my new premium and maximum copayment be?**

## **New Brunswick Drug Plan**

### **Changes to Premiums and Copayments November 1, 2022**

Information on the New Brunswick Drug Plan, including premiums and maximum copayments, is available online: [www.gnb.ca/drugplan](http://www.gnb.ca/drugplan).

Current members of the Plan will be sent a letter confirming their new premium and maximum copayment effective November 1, 2022.

**Q 9. Where can I find information about the new premiums and copayments?**

Information on the New Brunswick Drug Plan, including premiums and maximum copayments, is available online: [www.gnb.ca/drugplan](http://www.gnb.ca/drugplan).

**Q 10. Will the changes to the New Brunswick Drug Plan also affect the New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program (NBPDP)?**

No, there are no changes to the New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program (NBPDP) which provides coverage for low-income seniors, Social Development clients and nursing home residents.