

Dispensing Fees

Prescription Drug Information



Did you know that your total bill at the pharmacy when you fill a prescription includes more than just the cost of the medication?

The price of every prescription is made up of two parts:

- a) The cost of the ingredients to make the drug, and
- b) The cost of the pharmacist's services and advice, called the dispensing fee.

Dispensing fees can be different from pharmacy to pharmacy, and from drug to drug.

When filling a prescription, you can go to any pharmacy you choose. You should also take into consideration the familiarity that the pharmacist has of your state of health and how comfortable you are with the individual. If you'd like to know the dispensing fee for your medication, simply ask the pharmacy. As a customer, you also have the right to transfer your prescription to another pharmacy if you choose.

Whenever possible, ask for a three-month supply for your prescription to reduce dispensing fees costs. This is especially advantageous for drugs you take regularly, such as oral contraceptives, insulin, or blood pressure medication as it reduces the frequency of monthly dispensing charges.

To be eligible for a refill, you must have used at least two-thirds of your current prescription. For example: If you received a 30-day supply, you can refill it on day 20 ($30 \times 2/3$). If you're traveling and need an early refill, speak with your pharmacy or contact your insurance provider to request an exception be applied.

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