

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:

- The cost of the ingredients to make the drug, and
- 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 would like to know how much the dispensing fee is for your medication, you can ask the pharmacy.

When possible, request a three-month supply for your prescription. Whether you are paying for 30 or 90 pills, the dispensing fee is still the same. This is especially advantageous for drugs you take on a long-term basis, such as oral contraceptives, insulin, or blood pressure medication. You will then only pay the dispensing fee once for three months, as opposed to once a month.

Average Dispensing Fees by Pharmacy by Province

Pharmacy	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON
CareRx	\$9.92	\$11.58	\$11.75	-	\$9.08
Costco Pharmacy*	\$4.32	\$3.94	\$4.37	\$4.29	\$4.33
DRUGStore Pharmacy (Superstore/No Frills/Extra Foods)	\$9.76	\$11.76	\$11.61	\$10.08	\$9.70
Independent	\$10.23	\$11.85	\$11.66	\$16.20	\$10.58
Loblaws Pharmacy	\$8.97	\$10.35	\$11.61	\$9.08	\$9.87
London Drugs	\$9.26	\$11.07	\$10.36	\$8.84	-
Metro	-	-	-	-	\$9.65
Pharma Plus	-	-	-	\$14.63	\$10.92
PharmaChoice	\$10.51	\$11.89	\$11.68	\$16.31	\$10.83
Pharmasave	\$11.01	\$11.90	\$11.72	\$14.05	\$10.85
PocketPills	\$9.22	\$8.76	\$9.11	\$8.76	\$10.14
Rexall	\$11.25	\$11.93	\$11.77	\$14.67	\$10.98
Safeway	\$9.54	\$11.65	\$11.52	\$13.96	\$10.34
Save-On-Foods	\$10.16	\$11.84	\$11.65	\$11.52	-
Shoppers Drug Mart/Pharmaprix	\$10.40	\$11.82	\$11.64	\$13.35	\$10.96
Sobeys/Lawtons/Thrifty Foods/Fresh Co.	\$9.91	\$11.85	\$11.60	\$13.91	\$10.34
The Medicine Shoppe Pharmacy	\$10.30	\$11.91	\$11.72	\$15.71	\$10.71
Value Drug Mart	-	\$11.88	-	-	-
Walmart	\$9.78	\$11.65	\$11.59	\$10.14	\$9.63

* Costco Membership is not required to access their Pharmacy