

Special Authority (SA) helps residents of B.C. pay for some drugs and medical devices when they meet specific medical criteria.

When is SA needed?

SA is needed for PharmaCare to help pay for some drugs or medical devices that aren't usually fully covered. This could include drugs or devices that:

- cost more than other safe and effective options
- may only work for certain conditions

Check the list of SA drugs and devices

gov.bc.ca/sadruglist



If you meet the criteria, a prescriber can ask for your drug to be covered by SA. They submit an SA form to PharmaCare confirming you meet criteria.

How much does SA cover?

If your request is approved, your usual PharmaCare plan rules still apply.

- If you are on a 100% coverage plan (like Plan NP, C, W, or G), and the drug is covered under that plan, you won't have to pay
- If your only plan is Fair PharmaCare, you may still need to pay all or part of the cost until you reach your deductible and family maximum

How it works



A prescriber sends a request

SA requests are made by a **prescriber**. If you meet the criteria, a prescriber can send an SA request form to PharmaCare. Submitting forms online usually leads to faster decision-making.



PharmaCare review

PharmaCare reviews the request to check that you meet the coverage criteria. This can take a couple of days to a couple of months, depending on the number of requests received.



Coverage decision is made

You can check the status of your request on **Health Gateway** at www.gov.bc.ca/healthgateway.com.

You can also ask a prescriber or pharmacist, or call the PharmaCare Help desk at the number below.



Need help?

Help Desk staff can answer questions in over 140 languages, Monday to Friday 8 am – 8 pm and Saturday 8 am – 4pm.



1-800-663-7100

Telephone for the deaf: Dial 711