



Appendix C: PharmaCare quantity limits for blood glucose test strips

TREATMENT CATEGORY	NOTES – For combination therapy, the highest eligible quantity limit applies. (e.g., If a patient takes insulin, this higher limit applies, regardless of other diabetes medications.)	ANNUAL QUANTITY LIMIT
Managing diabetes with insulin		3,000
Managing diabetes with anti-diabetes medications with a high risk of causing hypoglycemia	Drugs with a higher risk of hypoglycemia (insulin secretagogues-sulfonylureas, meglitinides).	400
Managing diabetes with anti-diabetes medications with a low risk of causing hypoglycemia	Drugs with a lower risk of hypoglycemia (acarbose, metformin, Dipeptidyl Peptidase-4 Inhibitors (DPP4I's), incretin mimetics/ glucagon-like peptide (GLP-1) agonists, sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors and thiazolidinediones (TZDs).	200
Managing diabetes through diet/lifestyle		200

SPECIAL AUTHORITY ADDITIONAL STRIP COVERAGE

If a patient meets one of the criteria below and is not on insulin, BC PharmaCare will cover 100 extra strips per year on receipt of a Special Authority Request from a physician or from a health professional at a Diabetes Education Centre recognized by the BC Ministry of Health.

BGTS Limited Coverage Form: www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/criteria/restricted/bgts.html

For patients requiring 100 additional blood glucose test strips **AND** who are not using insulin **AND** Are experiencing at least one of the following:

- Not meeting glycemic targets, as determined by a physician, for 3 months or more **OR**
- Acute illness or comorbidities that may impact blood glucose control **OR**
- Changes in drug therapy that may impact blood glucose control (e.g., starting or stopping hypo- or hyperglycemic inducing medications, or drug-to-drug or drug-to-disease interactions) **OR**
- Occupations where hypoglycemia presents a significant safety risk (e.g., pilots, air traffic controllers, commercial drivers) **OR**
- Gestational diabetes

For more information on BC PharmaCare coverage of test strips, please see their website at www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/bgts-pro.html.

Note: In the rare case that a patient has a medical need for even more frequent testing, or when a **patient on insulin** needs to test more frequently, an endocrinologist may submit a **written request** to PharmaCare for additional strips. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The letter should outline the need for the additional strips and the quantity required.

References:

1. Optimal Therapy Recommendations for the Prescribing and Use of Blood Glucose Test Strips. From *CADTH Technology Overviews*, Volume 1, Issue 2, e0109. June 2010. Available at: www.cadth.ca/en/products/cadth-overviews/vol-1-issue-2/vol-1-issue-2-09
2. BC Ministry of Health, Blood Glucose Testing. Available at: www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/bgts-pro.html