Appendix C: PharmaCare quantity limits for blood glucose test strips

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TREATMENT CATEGORY</th>
<th>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.)</th>
<th>ANNUAL QUANTITY LIMIT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Managing diabetes with insulin</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing diabetes with anti-diabetes medications with a high risk of causing hyperglycemia</td>
<td>Drugs with a higher risk of hypoglycemia (insulin secretagogues-sulfonylureas, meglitinides).</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing diabetes with anti-diabetes medications with a low risk of causing hyperglycemia</td>
<td>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).</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing diabetes through diet/lifestyle</td>
<td></td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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: