



November 6, 2001

Dear Patient:

I am writing to inform you of a change in Pharmacare's policies regarding blood glucose monitoring strip certification.

As you are aware, Pharmacare reimbursement for home blood glucose monitoring strips is dependent upon the individual holding a valid *Certificate of Training* from an approved diabetic teaching centre. This certification of training is necessary to ensure that individuals receiving this Pharmacare benefit have been instructed on how to use the strips effectively.

Diabetics were also required to re-certify one to three years after initial certification to receive further instruction and continuing education on diabetes management. However, effective immediately, Pharmacare will no longer require re-certification. All existing and new certifications will qualify for ongoing coverage.

Although the education provided by re-certification remains a positive health objective and benefits those who undertake it, we have determined that it should not be a requirement for Pharmacare purposes.

The objectives of ongoing diabetes education will be centered on assisting individuals to take care of their own health. Follow-ups to certification and continued education will be provided through Diabetes Education Centres, regular visits to physicians and through web sites and the BC HealthGuide. This approach supports the British Columbia Strategy for the Prevention of Diabetes currently being developed that will focus on targeted, coordinated and sustained efforts to improve each individual's health.

Yours truly,

Marnie Mitchell
Executive Director

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