



To: Physicians/Pharmacists

From: Human Resources Services, McMaster University

Subject: Implementation of Rx05 Managed Drug Formulary for SEIU Local 2
BGPWU Hospitality Services and Operations & Maintenance
Policy number 25018

Date: March 23, 2011

This memo is provided to inform you of the new drug formulary and some important aspects of its administration.

The Rx05 managed drug formulary was introduced effective October 13, 2010 for members Operations and Maintenance, and February 2, 2011 for members of Hospitality Services. This change also includes any eligible dependent family members.

McMaster's extended health care plan will continue to be administered by Sun Life Financial, with the existing pay-direct drug card system.

Briefly, the Rx05 plan will function as follows:

- **Drug formulary frozen as of December 31, 2005** – Drugs requiring a prescription by law, which are covered by our drug formulary as of December 31, 2005, will continue to be covered with some exclusions.
- **Exclusions** – Rx05 coverage does not include electronic diagnostic monitoring equipment (such as glucometers); extension devices for inhaled medications (such as the Aerochamber), weight loss medication, erectile dysfunction drugs, fertility drugs and smoking cessation products.
- **Mandatory generic substitution** – While generic drug substitution is practiced in Ontario, the Rx05 drug formulary will require mandatory generic substitution. Where the employee does not accept the generic drug, and purchases the brand name drug, the extended health plan will only reimburse the cost of the generic drug.
- **Addition of new drugs** – The medical and cost efficacy of new drugs approved by Health Canada, will be evaluated by an independent review body. New drugs will be added to the formulary where clinical evidence is found to support the medical and cost efficacy of a new drug as a first line treatment. New drugs added to the National Formulary will be added to the Rx05 formulary.

Questions concerning drug and equipment coverage under the Rx05 drug formulary can be directed to Sun Life at 1-800-361-6212 or email askus@sunlife.com.