Ministère du Revenu du Québec
www.revenu.gouv.qc.ca

Prescription Drug Insurance Plan

Québec

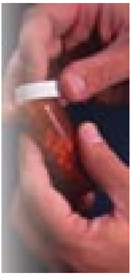
The information contained in this brochure does not constitute a legal interpretation of the provisions of the Taxation Act, or any other legislation.

ISBN 2-550-38397-4

Legal deposit - Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, 2001

Legal deposit - National Library of Canada, 2001

Contents



Introduction

Under the Act respecting prescription drug insurance, which came into effect in 1997, all persons who have a health insurance card issued by the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) must have **basic prescription drug insurance coverage**.

There are two ways for you to obtain basic prescription drug insurance:

- through a group insurance plan, i.e., group insurance or employee benefit plan that you have by reason of your employment (current or previous), your profession or your occupation. You may be covered under your spouse's, your father's or your mother's plan; or
- through the prescription drug insurance plan administered by the RAMQ.

If you do not have group insurance coverage, you must, without fail, contact the RAMQ (if you have not already done so) to register for the prescription drug insurance plan.

The prescription drug insurance plan covers drugs included on the drug list published by the RAMQ. Please note that, unlike certain group plans, the public plan covers only purchases made in Québec.

IMPORTANT

This brochure contains tax information regarding the prescription drug insurance plan. In order to help you better understand the prescription drug insurance plan, we have also included general information from the RAMQ. If you require any additional information about the plan, please contact the RAMQ.

Passages that contain tax information are highlighted. If you require any additional information in this respect, please contact the Ministère du Revenu office in your area.

Are you covered by a group insurance plan?

A number of people are covered by group insurance plans by reason of their employment (current or previous) or profession, or because they are covered under their spouse's, father's or mother's group insurance plan.

If you are employed but are not sure you have group insurance, you should check with your employer.

Some insurance companies sell **supplementary insurance** that covers, for example, costs of hospitalization or home nursing. This insurance plan may also cover prescription drugs. However, it is not a basic prescription drug insurance plan; it is complementary to the prescription drug insurance plan. The supplementary insurance plan covers, for example, prescription drugs that are not on the list published by the RAMQ.

What if you are covered by a group insurance plan?

When you have a prescription filled, follow the procedure provided by your insurance company. If you require clarification concerning the procedure, please contact your insurance company.

If you are covered by a group insurance plan, you are not obliged to pay premiums under the drug insurance plan. You must, however, inform the Ministère du Revenu of this when you file your tax return, as it is the Ministère that is responsible for collecting the premiums. Simply enter the number corresponding to your situation in the appropriate box on your income tax return. You will find the numbers in Schedule K of the income tax return.

If you were not covered by a group insurance plan throughout the year, read the section entitled "The Premium" below.

Registering for the prescription drug insurance plan

If you do not have access to a group insurance plan, you must be covered by the prescription drug insurance plan. To obtain coverage, call the RAMQ to register.

If you are 65 years of age or older, you are registered automatically. Recipients of last-resort financial assistance and holders of a valid claim slip issued by the Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Solidarité sociale are also registered automatically.

If you are 65 years of age or over and you still have coverage under a group insurance plan that includes basic prescription drug insurance coverage, you must notify the RAMQ; otherwise you will automatically be registered under the prescription drug insurance plan and you might be required to reimburse amounts paid to you by the RAMQ.

If you wish to obtain further information with respect to the prescription drug insurance plan, please contact the RAMQ at the following addresses and telephone numbers:

Québec
1125, chemin Saint-Louis
Sillery (Québec) G1S 1E7
(418) 646-4636

Montréal
425, boul. De Maisonneuve Ouest, 3e étage
Montréal (Québec) H3A 3G5
(514) 864-3411

Elsewhere in Québec (toll-free): 1 800 561-9749

Information service for persons with a hearing impairment:
(418) 682-3939
or, toll-free, 1 800 361-3939

Internet: www.ramq.gouv.qc.ca

How much does coverage cost?

Generally, persons who register under the prescription drug insurance plan must pay an **annual premium**. They must also pay a certain amount per month, as a **monthly contribution** toward the payment of their prescription drugs.

The premium

You are required to pay an annual premium, unless one of the situations set out below applies to you. You must pay the premium to the Ministère du Revenu even if you did not purchase prescription drugs during the year.

You are not required to pay a premium:

- for children under the age of 18 (or under the age of 26, provided they are duly enrolled as full-time students and they do not have a spouse);
- for persons who live with you and who have a severe and prolonged impairment that existed before their eighteenth birthday;
- if you receive benefits under a last-resort financial assistance program;
- if you were absent from Québec throughout the year;
- if you are a beneficiary under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement or the Northeastern Québec Agreement;
- if you are an Indian registered with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, or were recognized as an Inuk by that department;
- if you were in a public or private residential and long-term care centre under agreement.

IMPORTANT

If one of these situations applies to you, you must state in your income tax return that you are not required to pay a premium. Simply enter the code that applies to your situation in the appropriate box. You will find more detailed information on this subject in the income tax guide.

Contribution towards the payment of medication

Each month, you are required to pay a portion of the cost of your medication. This contribution must be paid to the pharmacist when you purchase the medication.

You must pay a deductible. The remainder of the cost of the medication you require during the month will be paid jointly by you (25%) and the RAMQ (75%), until you reach your maximum contribution, which is based on your income. Once you have reached the maximum contribution for the month, you no longer make contributions when you have prescriptions filled for medication that is covered.

You do not have to contribute towards the purchase of medication:

- for children under the age of 18 (or under the age of 26, provided they are duly enrolled as full-time students and they do not have a spouse);
- for persons who live with you and who have a severe and prolonged impairment that existed before their eighteenth birthday;
- if you receive benefits under a last-resort financial assistance program and you have a severely limited capacity for employment, or your spouse is in this situation.

Inform your pharmacist

If you are insured under the prescription drug insurance plan, you must inform your pharmacist of this when you have your prescription filled. You must also provide the pharmacist with your health-insurance card and, if applicable, your claim slip.

The pharmacist will give you a receipt showing your contribution towards your purchase. The receipt will also include a statement of your contributions for the month.

For further information with regard to your contribution towards the purchase of medication, please contact the RAMQ.

The premium

You are required to pay your premium when you file your income tax return. In order to calculate your premium, you must fill out Schedule K. Your premium may be reduced on the basis of your family income.

If you are not required to pay a premium, you must enter the number corresponding to your situation in the appropriate box on your income tax return. You will find further information in the instructions for Schedule K of your income tax return.

Special cases

You were not covered throughout the year by a group insurance plan

If you were not covered throughout the year by a group insurance plan, you must complete Schedule K and attach it to your income tax return, even if you did not benefit from the prescription drug insurance plan.

You are a student

You are not required to pay a premium if you attended an educational institution on a full-time basis (during the winter and fall terms), you were 26 years of age or under and you did not have a spouse. Nonetheless, you must enter the number corresponding to your situation in the appropriate box on your income tax return.

If you were a full-time student for only a part of the year, you are required to complete Schedule K and attach it to your income tax return, even if you did not benefit from the prescription drug insurance plan.

You consider your income to be low

In order to determine if you must pay a premium, you are required to complete Schedule K.

Your spouse is paying your premium

If your spouse chooses to pay your premium, your spouse is required to complete Schedule K and attach it to his or her income tax return. You must to indicate in your income tax return that you are not required to pay a premium. Simply enter the number corresponding to your situation in the appropriate box on your income tax return.

You were absent from Québec throughout the year

If you were absent from Québec throughout the year, you are not required to pay a premium. You are, however, required to indicate this in your income tax return by entering the number corresponding to your situation in the appropriate box on your income tax return.

You may be entitled to a tax credit

Your medical expenses may give you entitlement to a tax credit. Are you aware that you can include in your medical expenses the premium paid under the prescription drug insurance plan, as well as your contribution towards prescription drug purchases?

In order to apply for this tax credit, you are required to complete Schedule B and attach it to your income tax return. You will find more detailed information on this subject in the income tax guide.