

Bulletin # 791

July 9, 2010

Pharmacy Billing Reminder

Actual Acquisition Cost Claims for Single Source Drugs

This serves as a reminder of the regulations under the *New Brunswick Prescription Drug Payment Act* regarding Actual Acquisition Cost (AAC), which is applicable to all New Brunswick pharmacies and dispensing physicians. The regulations state:

“Actual Acquisition Cost” means the cost of a product to a pharmacy or dispensing physician, based on reasonable and customary purchasing practices, which is calculated by:

- a) deducting from the total amount paid or payable, exclusive of shipping charges, by the pharmacy or dispensing physician to purchase the product, the value of any price reduction,

Be advised that to submit drug claims to the New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program on an AAC basis, without including any price reductions received, (i.e. manufacturer discounts, rebates, professional allowances, etc.) would be contrary to the *Prescription Drug Payment Act* subsection 5.3.

“A person who violates or fails to comply with paragraph (1)(a), (1)(a.1), (1)(a.2), (1)(b), or (1)(c) commits an offence punishable under Part II of the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act* as a category H offence.” A category H offence could result in a maximum fine of ten thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$10,250.)

We would like to remind pharmacies and dispensing physicians that any savings received from manufacturer discounts/rebates must be passed on to the New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at 1-800-332-3691.

Yours truly,



Debbie LeBlanc
New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program