The Capsule

SPECIAL EDITION l June 16, 2026 l Page 1 of 2

RxA Advocacy Update: New Multi-Year Pharmacy Funding Framework

RxA is pleased to share that, following extensive consultation and sustained advocacy, a new multi-year Pharmacy Funding Framework has been finalized with the Government of Alberta. This agreement provides greater stability for pharmacists and pharmacies through to March 31, 2029, and reflects significant work by RxA to ensure the value of pharmacist care is recognized within Alberta's publicly funded health system.

Throughout these discussions, RxA's advocacy was focused on clear priorities: achieving more sustainable pharmacy funding, recognizing the rising cost of delivering care, and protecting the important role pharmacists play in Alberta's primary care system. The final agreement reflects meaningful progress in these areas and provides greater certainty for pharmacists and pharmacy owners to plan for the years ahead.

A key outcome is an increase to the dispensing fee, the first since 2018. This has been a longstanding priority for RxA and is an important recognition of the work pharmacists and pharmacy teams do every day to ensure Albertans have timely access to medications, clinical services, and trusted health advice.

At the same time, this agreement reflects the fiscal realities facing government and the need to manage growth in publicly funded pharmacy services over the next three years. While RxA was successful in securing a dispensing fee increase and a multi-year funding framework, the agreement also includes measures intended to support sustainability and moderate future cost growth. This balance was an important part of reaching an agreement that provides investment in pharmacy while maintaining the long-term viability of publicly funded pharmacy services.

The agreement also provides a foundation for continued investment in pharmacist care within the government's overall budget for publicly funded pharmacy services. Each year government establishes a budget limit, with the Authorized Adjustment (AA) serving as the mechanism to manage costs if pharmacy expenditures exceed that limit. The growing demand for and value of pharmacy services across Alberta resulted in pharmacist-provided care exceeding the AA budget by ~$45million this past year. Importantly, the Authorized Adjustment was not triggered. Under the new agreement, pharmacists will see year-over-year increases to the yearly budget cap, adding $22 million in each of the next two years. It also includes a re-opener clause for the final year, creating a formal opportunity for RxA to continue discussions with government regarding the AA, before the agreement concludes in 2029. This ensures pharmacy funding remains part of an ongoing conversation and reinforces RxA's role in advocating for sustainable investment in pharmacist care.

As with any major funding agreement, there are implementation details and operational changes that pharmacists will need to understand. These will include changes related to frequency of dispensing towards encouraging longer term dispensing, limitations on daily dispensing fees, a cap on pharmacy services billings, modified PINs for CACP/SMMA claims processes, and other pricing and coverage adjustments. RxA will continue to work with PPHS to ensure that pharmacists are provided with clear information and practical guidance, communicated through the ABC Benefact, as implementation moves forward.

This agreement is the result of RxA's sustained advocacy and constructive engagement over an extended period, including the six-month extension for the existing agreement terms. It reflects a shared understanding of the important role pharmacists play in caring for Albertans and provides greater certainty for the years ahead. RxA will continue working with government and Alberta Blue Cross towards the October 1 implementation date and will continue advocating for future funding considerations that support pharmacists, pharmacies, and the patients they serve.

An ABC Benefact will be faxed to pharmacies this evening with additional details.