

Talking Points - BC Formulary

- 1) We need your help.
- 2) Three important aspects to a senior health program are: Physical Activity, Social Interaction, and affordable Prescription Drugs. All are equally important.
- 3) Prescription drugs play an important role in seniors' health. Seniors quite often stop taking their prescription drugs upon retirement as a result of lost health care benefits and because the escalating cost of prescription drugs is not offset by any cost of living allowance in their pensions. They are on a fixed pension income as set at their retirement date sometimes as long as 25 to 30 years ago.
- 4) As seniors age, what was previously simple sometimes becomes confusing. Understanding why prescriptions once paid for are no longer allowed when costs are submitted is very confusing and frustrating to many seniors.
- 5) As advocates for our seniors in the MacMillan Bloedel Weyerhaeuser Retired Salaried Employees Club (MBWRSEC), it is even confusing for us.
- 6) It would seem to us, the Directors of the Club, that the BC Formulary plays a significant role in what drugs are covered. It also appears that drugs are placed on and removed from the Formulary with some regularity, thus adding to the confusion.
- 7) We understand and explain to our members that drugs prescribed must conform to the cheapest generic drug available. We encourage them to develop a personal relationship with their pharmacist to ensure drugs can do both the job for which they are prescribed and be reimbursed for cost. Our members should also be certain they are registered with BC Pharmacare.
- 8) If the Provincial body responsible for what drugs are and are not allowed on the Formulary is using this as a pressure tactic to get pharmaceutical companies to reduce their drug costs, then the people they are hurting most are our seniors.
- 9) As the Directors of MBWRSEC, we need to understand clearly how drugs are moved on and off the Formulary and we need to

communicate to those responsible the impact on seniors of their actions.

- 10) When seniors do not take their prescribed drugs, it leads to higher health costs for the Province. As a result, we need Government to correct the high cost of prescription drugs.
- 11) We are asking that you, as our MLAs, take our concerns forward to the BC Health authority responsible for making the decisions on the BC Formulary and give us a chance to meet with them in order to further discuss and explain the consequences of their decisions and for us to obtain better clarity on how the system works.

The Board of Directors of MBWRSEC. Charles Burrell. President - chasburrell@shaw.ca. May 14, 2018