

Prescription Costs for Children and Youth in Care

There are a number of ways in which the costs associated with prescription medications can be covered for CIC's, who are in the care of foster parents, that do not require the foster parent to be out of pocket in order to cover the required medication.

Children and youth in care are eligible for approved prescription medications free of charge through PharmaCare. The child or youth's worker activates PharmaCare coverage by applying for basic medical coverage on the Ministry Information System (MIS). A child must be enrolled in the Medical Services Plan (MSP) in order to receive this PharmaCare coverage.

The foster parent **may have to confirm** with the child or youth's social worker that this has been done to ensure the costs are covered. These benefits are then obtained by providing the child or youth's personal health number or Care Card to the pharmacist.

For medications not covered by PharmaCare, a physician may make a request for special approval by submitting a Special Authority Request to PharmaCare. Therefore, the foster parent, who is responsible for taking the child to the physician, would need to make this request on behalf of the child or youth. For more information on Special Authority Requests, please visit the following web site www.health.gov.bc.ca/pharmacare/sa/saindex.html

The Health Supports for Children in Care and Youth Agreements can be found on the MCFD internet site at http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/foster/pdf/health_supports_cic.pdf.

Additionally, the child or youth's social worker could be approached to cover the costs for the medications, particularly if the amounts needed to cover the medications are outside of the day to day costs expected to be covered by foster parents, on behalf of CIC's in their care.

For clarification purposes though, MCFD and PharmaCare do not cover certain medications or therapies, while they may have been recommended by physicians, but have not been approved or accepted by Federal and/or Provincial Health Ministries.

