



Optional Medical Cannabis Benefit

Medavie Blue Cross offers an optional Group Extended Health Care Benefit for medical cannabis based on review of the best-available clinical evidence supporting the use of cannabis for medical purposes.

Eligible conditions

Prior authorization of coverage is required and will be considered for:

- Chronic neuropathic pain
- Refractory pain in palliative cancer care
- Nausea and vomiting due to cancer chemotherapy
- Spasticity in multiple sclerosis or spinal cord injury

Approval Process

To be pre-authorized for coverage, a member and their health care practitioner need to submit information to Medavie Blue Cross for review:

- A medical cannabis prior authorization form that includes confirmation that cannabis is a second or third line treatment for the eligible conditions
- A copy of the patient's medical documentation authorizing the use of cannabis for medical purposes by Health Canada

Annual benefit maximum options

- \$1,500 or \$3,000 or \$6,000
- Insured plans with less than 100 lives are limited to \$1,500

Eligible items

- Fresh and dried cannabis flower and cannabis oil purchased directly from a licensed producer authorized by Health Canada

Ineligible items

- Any cannabis product not purchased from a licensed producer authorized by Health Canada
- Whole cannabis plants, cannabis seeds and seedlings, and edibles
- Products related to consumption of cannabis

Alternate coverage option - HSA

Members of group benefit plans with Health Spending Accounts, or HSAs, can receive reimbursement for medical cannabis independent of the Extended Health Care Benefit. Coverage amounts are limited to existing HSA maximums. While prior authorization is not required, plan members still need to purchase medical cannabis from a licensed producer authorized by Health Canada and have a valid medical document authorizing the use of cannabis for medical purposes.

