



FOR RELEASE

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Generic drugs to cost less for Yukon residents

WHITEHORSE—Yukon residents filling prescriptions for certain drugs will have begun noticing a reduction in the cost, effective April 1, thanks to an agreement among provinces and territories announced in January.

"The work behind this national initiative was aimed at making medications more affordable for Canadians," Health and Social Services Minister Doug Graham said. "When filling a prescription for one of the six affected generic drugs, the cost is now less, both for individuals and for government."

The Yukon government covers the cost of these six drugs for individuals who are registered with the chronic disease or pharmacare programs.

The Pan-Canadian Competitive Value Price Initiative for Generic Drugs reduced the price of the six most common drugs to 18 per cent of the brand name price, the lowest prices achieved to date by provincial and territorial drug plans. This initiative is an achievement of the Council of the Federation's Health Care Innovation Working Group.

The price reduction affects the six drugs most commonly prescribed for high cholesterol, high blood pressure, heart failure, depression, stomach complaints and heartburn. Generic drugs have the same quality, strength, purity and stability as brand name equivalents and are made to the same exacting standards.

"These drugs were included based on cost, use and the fact that there are many generic suppliers. Together, these six drugs represent about 20 per cent of the cost of government drug programs both nationally and in Yukon," Graham said. "Across the country, it is anticipated that this move alone will save approximately \$100 million."

All local pharmacies have been advised of the changes and must charge the reduced amounts.

For more information about this national decision, visit www.councilofthefederation.ca.

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