

University of Guelph Extended Health Care Pharmacy Dispensing Fee Cap (\$6.50)

As healthcare costs continue to rise, it helps to understand exactly what you are paying for.

The cost of picking up a prescription will vary by pharmacy, but there are three main factors that determine the price of your medicines:

1. the **dispensing fee**, which is the professional fee that a pharmacist will charge you to fill the prescription.
2. the drug ingredient cost, which is the amount that the pharmacy pays to purchase the drug.
3. the pharmacy mark-up fee, which refers to any other amount that was charged to the pharmacist to purchase the drug, above the actual drug cost.

Most University of Guelph plans have a cap (the maximum amount you will be reimbursed) on the dispensing fee of \$6.50.

How to Save on your Dispensing Fees:

1. Shop around: The cost of your total prescription will vary depending on the pharmacy you shop at. You can call local pharmacies and ask them how much it will cost to fill your prescription, what their dispensing fees are, and what the drug cost charge is.
2. When possible, request a three-month supply for your prescription. Whether you are paying for 30 or 90 pills, the dispensing fee is still the same. This is especially advantageous for drugs you take on a long-term basis, such as oral contraceptives, insulin, or blood pressure medication. You will then only pay the dispensing fee once for three months, as opposed to once a month.