

## Who can benefit?

This brochure is a guide for undocumented immigrants in Alberta on how to access health care services from pharmacists. Undocumented immigrants do not have the same coverage/free access to healthcare as Alberta residents, so this brochure is meant to highlight alternative, cheaper options.

## What is a pharmacist?

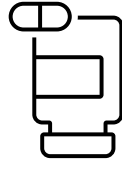
Pharmacists prepare and dispense prescriptions, ensure medicines and doses are correct, prevent harmful drug interactions, and counsel patients on the safe and appropriate use of their medications



## What can a pharmacist in Alberta do?

- Assess and Prescribe for Minor Ailments/illnesses
- Renew or extend prescriptions for continuity of care
- Order labs, interpret them, and follow up with the patient
- Injection of vaccines and certain drugs
- Help manage ongoing conditions

	Cold Sores		Skin Rash
	Heartburn/Acid Reflux		Urinary tract Infections
	Insect/Tick Bites		Hay Fever
	Muscle Aches and Pains		Hemorrhoids
	Pink Eye		Menstrual Cramps
	Oral Thrush		Skin Infection



## Conditions That Pharmacist Can Help Manage

- Diabetes
- High Blood Pressure
- Asthma and COPD



## Cost Comparisons

The cost to visit a doctor's office in Alberta is approximately \$200 but the average cost to be assessed by a pharmacist is ~\$20 at a community pharmacy

## How/where to access

Pharmacists can be accessed at any community pharmacy and no appointment is necessary. To do an assessment and prescribe a medication, the pharmacist must have Additional Prescribing Authority (APA).

There are also pharmacist led walk-in clinics available where you can book an appointment to speak with a prescribing pharmacist.



Scan to see our online toolkit for more information!



## Disclaimer

Pharmacist will assess conditions and ask about red flags (signs that would require more assessment by the doctor) so there is always a chance that they may refuse to prescribe.

It is also required that pharmacists should have a professional relationship with their patient before prescribing a medication for a condition that has not been treated before. If there is no prior relationship or the pharmacist does not feel comfortable prescribing, the patient may need to see the doctor for the first prescription, then the pharmacist can take over ongoing management.

This information is provided by pharmacy students at the University of Alberta. If you have any questions about the information, contact us by email:  
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## What can your community pharmacist do for you?

This brochure is a guide for immigrants in Alberta who may be considered “undocumented” on what healthcare services are available and how to access them.

