



No Substitution in Quebec ... new RAMQ requirements



March 26, 2015

On February 12, 2015, the Quebec Minister of Health monsieur Gaétan Barrette announced changes to RAMQ's handling of prescriptions where a doctor has indicated "no substitution". His announcement stressed the importance of balancing patient needs and financial sustainability. Currently, RAMQ patients that have a prescription with "do not substitute" written by their doctor are reimbursed by the public plan at the cost of the brand name drug. Under the new regulations reimbursement will be governed as outlined in the summary below:

A reason code is required on prescriptions stating "Do Not Substitute"

RAMQ will require physicians to state one of four codes on the prescription in addition to "do not substitute". The codes include reasons such as an allergy or intolerance to the non-active ingredient of the generic drug. If none of the accepted codes or clinical conditions apply to the patient then only the generic price will be covered by RAMQ .

There will be a transition period

The new rules come into effect on April 24, 2015 however, up until May 31, 2015, "do not substitute" can be used without a code on the prescription and the patient will not have to pay the difference in price between the brand and generic drug.

Patients have a choice

Patients can get the brand drug even if their doctor doesn't feel that one of the accepted "do not substitute" codes applies. In those instances, the patient will be responsible for paying the difference between the brand and generic drug.

Patients on clozapine or immunosuppressants may be grandfathered

Patients who were covered for clozapine or immunosuppressants brand name drugs prior to June 1, 2015 will be grandfathered. They will not need to have a reason code on their prescription to get the brand covered.

The full press release is available here <http://www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/documentation/salle-de-presse/ficheCommunique.php?id=878>. At this time the press release is only available in French.

ClaimSecure is committed to deliver cost saving programs to our drug plan sponsors. Stay tuned for the June 2015 launch of our Enhanced (Mandatory) Generic Program available in Quebec.

If you have any questions, please contact your Account Manager directly at 1-888-479-7587.