

Information Update

February 7, 2011

To: Advisors and Consultants
From: The Co-operators Group Department
Re: **Information Updates**
 Effective in 2011

The attached notice will be sent to plan sponsors across Canada.

If you have any questions about the communication, please contact your Group Business Development Manager.

February 21, 2011

<First Name> <Last Name>
<Company Name>
<Address 1>
<Address 2>
<City> <Prov> <Postal>

Dear <First Name>:

**Re: Information Updates
Effective in 2011**

In this issue:

- **Warning against certain online pharmacies**
- **Employment Insurance benefits extended to the self-employed**
- **Brand name drugs with expiring patents**

Warning against certain online pharmacies:

Health Canada has warned against the purchase of drugs from the following websites:

- www.northdrugmart.com
- www.northdrugstore.com
- www.pharmacyrxworld.com

These websites are not associated with a licensed Canadian pharmacy. In addition, certain drugs available on these sites have not been authorized for sale in Canada and are suspected to be counterfeit.

Employment Insurance benefits extended to the self-employed

Beginning January 2011, the following Employment Insurance benefits have been extended to self employed Canadians:

- maternity benefits
- parental benefits
- sickness benefits
- compassionate care benefits

For more information and eligibility requirements, please go to the following website:
www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/sc/ei/sew/index.shtml.

Brand name drugs with expiring patents:

Nearly all of the top 30 brand name drugs covered under most group benefit plans will come off patent over the next three years.

The following table highlights drugs with recently expired patents:

Drug	Condition treated
Pantoloc	stomach ulcers and gastroesophageal reflux
Effexor	depression
Prevacid	stomach acid
Norvasc	hypertension and angina
Lipitor	high cholesterol

The following table highlights some of the drugs that will come off patent soon:

Drug	Condition treated
Oxycontin	moderate to moderately severe pain
Nexium	stomach ulcers and gastroesophageal reflux disease
Viagra	erectile dysfunction
Singulair	asthma and seasonal allergies

Please contact your group benefits advisor if you have questions.

Sincerely,

The Co-operators