INTRODUCTION

Acknowledgments

Alberta Health and Wellness acknowledges the important role Alberta Blue Cross continues to play in the production of the List and in the development of an overall strategy and initiatives to better manage Alberta Health and Wellness sponsored drug programs.

Eligibility

The *Alberta Health and Wellness Drug Benefit List* defines the drugs and drug products that are covered by Alberta government-sponsored drug programs. These programs are for Albertans and their dependents who are covered by:

1. the Alberta Blue Cross *Non-Group Coverage (Group 1)* offered by the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan,
2. the Alberta Blue Cross *Coverage for Seniors (Group 66)* provided to all Alberta senior citizens and those on the Alberta Widows' Pension Plan *(Group 66A)*, or
3. the drug coverage provided to individuals approved by Alberta Health and Wellness for *Palliative Care Drug Coverage.* (For these individuals the *Palliative Care Drug Benefit Supplement* must also be considered), or
4. the drug coverage provided to Alberta Human Services and Alberta Seniors (AISH) clients. (For these clients the *Alberta Human Services Drug Benefit Supplement* must also be considered.)

Additional Notes Regarding Application of the List

1. The List is not intended to be used as a scientific reference or prescribing guide.
2. Formularies used by hospitals and continuing care facilities are developed independently of the *List.*
3. Drugs are classified according to the Pharmacologic–Therapeutic classifications (PTC) developed by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists for the purpose of the American Hospital Formulary Service.

   Permission to use this system has been granted by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists. The Society is not responsible for the accuracy of transpositions or excerpts from the original content.

   Where necessary, additional PTCs may have been assigned by Alberta Health and Wellness to facilitate product location in the *List*.
4. Where appropriate, the *Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties*, published by the Canadian Pharmacist's Association, was used as a reference source for the trade name, generic name, manufacturer, strength and dosage form.

   The Canadian Pharmacist's Association is not responsible for the accuracy of transpositions or excerpts from the original content.
5. Other reference sources used for the trade name, generic name, manufacturer, strength and dosage form are:
   - completed Drug Identification Number (DIN) notification form
   - Notice of Compliance (NOC)
   - Product Monograph

6. DINs listed reflect current manufacturer information available as of March 31, 2012.
7. Alberta Health and Wellness reserves the right to make changes, without notice, to the *List* through the on-line interactive *List*, and any such changes to the on-line interactive *List* are effective the date of the change (unless otherwise stated) and regardless of the date of publication in the paper version or updates.

Legend

1. Pharmacologic–Therapeutic classification.
2. Pharmacologic–Therapeutic sub-classification.
3. Nonproprietary or generic ingredient name of the drug.
4. Drug strength and dosage form.
5. The Drug Identification Number (DIN), assigned by the Therapeutic Products Directorate (TPD), Health Protection Branch, Health Canada.
6. A box containing an X ☒ to the left of the DIN indicates that the product is not interchangeable with other products or interchangeability has not been assessed within the category.
7. All active ingredients of combination products are listed.
8. Strengths of active ingredients are listed in the same order as the ingredients. This example indicates that the topical cream contains 1% hydrocortisone acetate and 10% urea.
9. Brand name of the drug.
10. Three letter identification code assigned to each manufacturer. The codes are listed in Appendix 2 at the end of the List.
11. For products which are marked as non-interchangeable, the price is indicated in regular type (not bold type). These prices are supplied by the manufacturer and are expressed in decimal dollars.
12. For those products which are single source, the price is indicated in regular type (not bold type). These prices are supplied by the manufacturer and are expressed in decimal dollars.
13. Interchangeable grouping where the Least Cost Alternative (LCA) Price Policy has not been applied. This example indicates these two products are deemed interchangeable. These prices are supplied by the manufacturer and are expressed in decimal dollars.
14. The LCA Price for the selected interchangeable category appears in bold type. The LCA price is the maximum price which will be paid. The prices listed are expressed as decimal dollars. An authorized health care provider may request special authorization if a particular brand is essential in the care of a patient where the LCA Price would otherwise apply. For further information refer to the Special Authorization Guidelines section of the AHWDBL or List.
15. Products or devices designated as restricted benefits and limited restricted benefits are identified by a comment after the generic name. The comment indicates “RESTRICTED BENEFIT” or “LIMITED RESTRICTED BENEFIT” along with an explanation of the limits and/or restrictions. In this example, coverage of Accolate is restricted to the treatment of asthma in patients 12 to 18 years of age inclusive. For more information about products or devices designated as restricted benefits, refer to the restricted benefits section of the List.

Example of Drug Product Listings

08:00 ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS
08:12.12.04 ANTIBACTERIALS
MACROLIDES
(ERYTHROMYCINS)

ERYTHROMYCIN
250 MG ORAL TABLET
00000682020 ERYTHRO-BASE AAP $ 0.1828
250 MG ORAL CAPSULE (ENTERIC-COATED PELLET)
00000726672 ERYTHRO-EC AAP $ 0.4193
00000607142 ERYC PFI $ 0.4916

28:00 CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM AGENTS
28:08:04.92 ANALGESICS AND ANTIPYRETICS
NONSTEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY AGENTS
(OTHER NONSTEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY AGENTS)

NAPROXEN
250 MG ORAL ENTERIC-COATED TABLET

00002246699	APO-NAPROXEN EC	APX	***$***	***0.1068***	$ 0.1570
00002365847	AVA-NAPROXEN EC	AVA	***$***	***0.1068***	$ 0.1570
00002350785	NAPROXEN EC	SNS	***$***	***0.1068***	$ 0.1570
00002243312	NOVO-NAPROX EC	TEV	***$***	***0.1068***	$ 0.1570
00002162792	NAPROSYN E	HLR	***$***	***0.1068***	$ 0.4487

MAC pricing has been applied based on the LCA price for 1 x 250 mg oral tablet.

68:00 HORMONES AND SYNTHETIC SUBSTITUTES
68:16.04 ESTROGENS AND ANTIESTROGENS
(ESTROGENS)

CONJUGATED ESTROGENS
0.3 MG ORAL TABLET
00002043394 PREMARIN WAY $ 0.3117
0.625 MG ORAL TABLET
00000265470 C.E.S VCL $ 0.1090
00002043408 PREMARIN WAY $ 0.3117

84:00 SKIN AND MUCOUS MEMBRANE AGENTS
84:06 ANTI-INFLAMMATORY AGENTS

HYDROCORTISONE ACETATE/ UREA
1 % * 10 % TOPICAL CREAM
00000503134 UREMOL-HC GSK $ 0.1877
1 % * 10 % TOPICAL LOTION
00000560022 UREMOL-HC GSK $ 0.1044
HYDROCORTISONE
1 % TOPICAL LOTION
☒00000578541 SARNA HC GSK $ 0.1008
☒00000192600 EMO-CORT GSK $ 0.1706

48:00 RESPIRATORY TRACT AGENTS
48:10.24 ANTI-INFLAMMATORY AGENTS
(LEUKOTRIENE MODIFIERS)

ZAFIRLUKAST
RESTRICTED BENEFIT - This product is a benefit for patients 12 to 18 years of age inclusive for the prophylaxis and treatment of asthma. (For eligibility in patients over 18 years of age refer to the Criteria for Special Authorization of Select Drug Products of the List, and Criteria for Special Authorization of Select Drug Products in the Alberta Human Services Drug Benefit Supplement for eligibility in Alberta Human Services and Alberta Seniors (AISH) clients.)
20 MG ORAL TABLET
00002236606 ACCOLATE AZC $ 0.8054

The DBL is not a prescribing or a diagnostic tool. Prescribers should refer to drug monographs and utilize professional judgment.

DRUG REVIEWS

The Minister of Health and Wellness makes the final decisions on changes to the *Alberta Health and Wellness Drug Benefit List (List)* after considering the recommendations of the Expert Committee on Drug Evaluation and Therapeutics (Expert Committee), and/or the Canadian Expert Drug Advisory Committee (CEDAC), and/or Alberta Health and Wellness.

Drug manufacturers wishing to have their drug product(s) listed on the *List* are required to make submissions in accordance with the procedures and criteria published in the *List*.

Common Drug Review

Alberta is a participant in the national Common Drug Review procedure (CDR Procedure*) and considers recommendations from CEDAC. Submissions relating to the New Chemical Entities and New Combination Products that have received a Health Canada Notice of Compliance (NOC) should be directed to the CDR Directorate for consideration, and must comply with the CDR Procedure requirements.

- **New Chemical Entity** is an active moiety that has not been previously approved for sale in Canada by Health Canada and marketed in Canada.
- **New Combination Product** consists of two or more active moieties that have not previously been approved for sale in Canada and marketed in Canada in that combination. It may consist of either two or more new active moieties or two or more old active moieties or a combination of new and old active moieties.

Expert Committee on Drug Evaluation and Therapeutics Drug Reviews

The Minister of Health and Wellness has established an Expert Committee on Drug Evaluation and Therapeutics to refine and maintain the *List* on an ongoing basis. All drug products not eligible for review under the CDR Procedure or the Interchangeable Expedited Review procedure must be reviewed by the Expert Committee prior to their determination as benefits on the *List*.

The Expert Committee considers the scientific, therapeutic, clinical and socio-economic merits of drug products. The Committee receives advice and assistance from external consultants and agencies when needed. The Expert Committee makes recommendations on the *List* to Alberta Health and Wellness through the Executive Director, Pharmaceutical Funding and Guidance, Health Policy and Service Standards Division.

Interchangeable Reviews

Drug products may be considered for listing as interchangeable through Expedited Review or Full Review. Expedited Review drug products are not required to undergo a full review by the Expert Committee. Interchangeable drug product submissions will be screened by Alberta Blue Cross to determine eligibility for an Expedited Review and the results provided to Alberta Health and Wellness. Interchangeable drug submissions requiring Full Review will be reviewed by the Expert Committee under its usual drug review procedure.

Referrals

Alberta Health and Wellness at all times and in all circumstances reserves the right to refer any submission to the CDR Procedure and/or the Expert Committee for further advice or for a full review.

Deferrals

The Expert Committee and/or Alberta Health and Wellness reserve the right to defer any submission it deems appropriate in order to ensure that it may complete a review in a manner that protects patient safety and maintains the integrity of the AHWDBL and the government-sponsored drug programs. Examples of reasons for deferrals include, but are not limited to:

1. To request additional information in order to conduct a review and prepare recommendations;
2. Where additional time, research and/or consultation is required before a review can be completed or a recommendation can be made;
3. Where new or novel issues are raised;
4. Where issues, questions or concerns relating to any of the listing criteria or factors arise, including but not limited to:
    (a) interchangeable safety issues,
    (b) whether the criteria requires expansion or clarification,
    (c) the drug product,
    (d) the listing,
    (e) the price,
    (f) any other relevant criteria or factor.

*Information regarding the CDR Procedure may be obtained through the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health.

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