Introduction

Acknowledgments

Alberta Health 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 sponsored drug programs.

Eligibility

The Alberta Drug Benefit List *(*the *"*List*"* or *"*ADBL*")* defines the Drug Products and Devices 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, or
2. the Alberta Blue Cross *Coverage for Seniors (Group 66)* provided to all Alberta senior citizens, or
3. the drug coverage provided to individuals approved by Alberta Health for *Palliative Coverage.* (For these individuals the *Palliative Coverage Drug Benefit Supplement* must also be considered), or
4. the drug coverage provided to Alberta Human Services 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 Classification (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 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 Notification Form (DNF)
   - Notice of Compliance (NOC)
   - Product Monograph

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

6. Drug Identification Numbers (DINs) and Natural Product Numbers (NPNs) listed reflect current Manufacturer information available as the date this was published.
7. Alberta Health 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 on the date of the change (unless otherwise stated) and regardless of the date of publication of the pdf 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, or Natural Product Number (NPN) assigned by the Natural and Non-prescription Health Products Directorate (NNHPD). For other types of Drug Products or Devices, a Product Identification Number (PIN) will be assigned.
6. A box containing an X ☒ to the left of the DIN/NPN/PIN 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 Drug 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 0.5 mg/g betamethasone dipropionate and 30 mg/g salicylic acid.
9. Brand name of the Drug Product or Device.
10. Three letter identification code assigned to each manufacturer. The codes are listed in Appendix 2 at the end of the List.
11. For Drug 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 Drug Products and Devices 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 Drug 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 ADBL or List.
15. Drug 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 Emend is restricted to the drug being prescribed by the Directors of Alberta Health Services – Cancer Care “Cancer Centres” (or their designates). For more information about Drug Products or Devices designated as restricted benefits, refer to the restricted benefits section of the List.
16. A MAC Grouping means a grouping of Drug Products or Devices that have been listed on the ADBL or the List as being subject to a MAC Price; a MAC Grouping may include a grouping of IC Drugs, in which case the grouping shall be treated as an Established IC Grouping. Groupings subject to MAC Price will have the maximum amount established by the Minister which will be paid by the Government of Alberta.

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

Example of Drug Product Listings

08:00 ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS
08:12.16.08 ANTIBACTERIALS
PENICILLINS
(AMINOPENICILLINS)

AMOXICILLIN TRIHYDRATE/ CLAVULANATE POTASSIUM
250 MG (BASE) * 125 MG (BASE) ORAL TABLET

00002243350	APO-AMOXI CLAV	APX	$	0.2467	(12)

28:00 CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM AGENTS
28:08:08 ANALGESICS AND ANTIPYRETICS
(OPIATE AGONISTS)

OXYCODONE HCL
10 MG ORAL TABLET

00000443948	**SUPEUDOL**	**SDZ**	**$**	**0.2397**	(14)
00002319985	**PMS-OXYCODONE**	**PMS**	**$**	**0.2517**	
00002240131	OXY-IR	PUR	$	0.4410	

(1) **28:00 CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM AGENTS**
(2) 28:08:04.92 ANALGESICS AND ANTIPYRETICS
NONSTEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY AGENTS
(OTHER NONSTEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY AGENTS)

(3) **DICLOFENAC SODIUM**
(4) **100 MG ORAL SUSTAINED-RELEASE TABLET**

00002091194	APO-DICLO SR	APX	***$ 0.3124***	$ 0.6502	

(5) ***MAC pricing has been applied based on the LCA price for 4 x 25 mg oral enteric-coated tablets.***

08:00 ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS (16)
08:12.28.20 ANTIBACTERIALS
MISCELLANEOUS ANTIBACTERIALS
(LINCOMYCINS)

CLINDAMYCIN PHOSPHATE
150 MG / ML (BASE) INJECTION

00002230535	CLINDAMYCIN (60 & 120 ML) (13)	SDZ	$	4.3650
00002230540	CLINDAMYCIN	SDZ	$	4.3650
00000260436	DALACIN C PHOSPHATE	PFI	$	4.4469

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

(7) **BETAMETHASONE DIPROPIONATE/ SALICYLIC ACID**
(8) **0.5 MG / G (BASE) * 30 MG / G TOPICAL OINTMENT**

00000578436	DIPROSALIC (9)	MFC	$	0.9302	

MAGNESIUM GLUCONATE
500 MG ORAL TABLET

☒ 00080009539	JAMP MAGNESIUM GLUCONATE	JPC	$	0.1088	
☒ 00000555126	MAGLUCATE	PPH	$	0.1242	(11)

(6)

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

APREPITANT
(15) RESTRICTED BENEFIT - This drug product must be prescribed by the Directors of Alberta Health Services - Cancer Care "Cancer Centres" (or their designates).
80 MG ORAL CAPSULE

00002298791	EMEND 80 MG	MFC	$	35.6613	

DRUG AND DEVICE REVIEWS

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

Manufacturers wishing to have their Drug Product(s) or Device(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 CDEC. Alberta Health and Alberta Blue Cross are not involved in the administration process for CDR submissions and so any questions regarding CDR submissions should be directed to the CDR. Submissions relating to New Drugs, Drugs with a New Indication(s), or New Combination Products that have received a Health Canada Notice of Compliance (NOC) or conditional NOC (NOC/c), or have a pending NOC or NOC/c for the indication(s) to be reviewed should be directed to the CDR for consideration. Submissions to the CDR must comply with the CDR Procedure and Submission Guideline requirements available on the CDR website at https://www.cadth.ca/cadth-procedures-reimbursement-reviews

Expert Committee on Drug Evaluation and Therapeutics Drug Reviews

The Minister of Health has established an Expert Committee on Drug Evaluation and Therapeutics to refine and maintain the List on an ongoing basis. All Drug Products and Devices not eligible for review under the CDR Procedure or the 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 and Devices. The Committee receives advice and assistance from external consultants and agencies when needed. The Expert Committee makes recommendations on the List to Alberta Health through the Executive Director, Pharmaceuticals & Supplementary Health Benefits.

Interchangeable Reviews

Drug Products may be considered for listing in interchangeable groupings 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. Interchangeable drug submissions requiring a Full Review will be reviewed by the Expert Committee under its usual Drug Product review procedure.

Biosimilar Reviews

Biosimilar Drug Product submissions may be considered through Expedited Review.

Device Reviews

Device submissions may be considered through Expedited Review.

Referrals

Alberta Health 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 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 ADBL 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 or Device,
   (d) the listing,
   (e) the price,
   (f) any other relevant criteria or factor.

Alberta Health
Expert Committee on Drug Evaluation and Therapeutics

Committee Members

Margaret GRAY, BSP, FCSHP
Chair
Clinical Practice Manager - North
Alberta Health Services Pharmacy Services
Edmonton, Alberta

Micheal GUIRGUIS, BScPharm, PhD
Vice-Chair
Drug Stewardship Pharmacist
Alberta Health Services
1B.140 Kaye Edmonton Clinic
11400 University Ave
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 1Z1

Caitlin CLARKE, BScPharm, PharmD
Clinical Pharmacist
Clarke Pharmacist Services
P.O. Box 4537
Barrhead, Alberta T7N 1A4

Nicholas MYERS, BSc, MB, BS, MRCGP (UK)
Medical Director, Provincial Primary Care Program
Alberta Health Services
10101 Southport Road SW
Calgary, Alberta T2W 3N2

Alberta Health Liaison

Andrea NAGLE, BSc Pharm, LLB
Executive Director
Pharmaceutical & Health Benefits Branch
Pharmaceutical & Supplementary Benefits Division
Alberta Health
11th Floor, 10025 Jasper Avenue NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1S6

Administrative/Scientific Support

Government Scientific and Research Services
Alberta Blue Cross
10009-108 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3C5

Julia CHAN, BScPharm, MHA
Team Manager

Amina BABAR, BSc Pharm
Pharmacist

Amanda CHUNG, BScPharm
Pharmacist

Sherry DIELEMAN, BScPharm, MSc
Pharmacist

Stephanie PARCASIO, BScPharm
Pharmacist