

the **DBL** report

Issue #122, September 2021

An Official Accompaniment to the Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL) produced by Alberta Blue Cross

The Expert Committee on Drug Evaluation and Therapeutics (ECDET)

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Brief Summary of Drug Review Activities

The Expert Committee on Drug Evaluation and Therapeutics met on July 20, 2021. The Committee reviewed Manufacturer submissions for twenty (20) Drug Products for potential listing, or change in listing, on the ADBL. The Committee also considered information for a number of supplementary assessments of the coverage status of seventy-three (73) Drug Products.

In addition to Drug Products reviewed by the Expert Committee, forty-four (44) Drug Products underwent Expedited Review for listing on the ADBL effective August 1, 2021, and fourteen (14) Drug Products underwent Expedited Review for listing on the ADBL effective September 1, 2021.

The following are highlights of recent changes to the ADBL and other topics of general interest. A complete list of changes, as well as the full ADBL may be accessed at

<https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/dbl/publications.php>

Highlights of Products Originally Reviewed via the Common Drug Review (CDR)

The following Drug Product was reviewed by CDR and the Expert Committee and added to the ADBL effective August 1, 2021:

- **KANUMA* 20 mg/vial injection** (sebelipase alfa) (APG) via Special Authorization (SA)

The following Drug Products were reviewed by CDR and added to the ADBL effective August 1, 2021:

- **ORKAMBI* 100 mg/125 mg & 150 mg/188 mg granules and 100 mg/125 mg & 200 mg/125 mg tablets** (lumacaftor/ivacaftor) (VER) via SA

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Please refer to the current ADBL for explanations of coverage, including a listing of coverage criteria (where applicable).

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Highlights of Drug Products Added

The following Natural Health Product was reviewed by the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* effective September 1, 2021:

- **JAMP-HYDROCORTISONE ACETATE 1% UREA 10% topical cream** (hydrocortisone acetate/urea) (JPC)

Highlights of Interchangeable (IC) Drug Products Added

Addition of the following Entry IC Drug Products to the *ADBL* has resulted in the creation of New IC Groupings, effective August 1, 2021:

- **AA-TELMISARTAN-AMLODIPINE 80 mg/5 mg & 80 mg/10 mg tablets** (telmisartan/amlodipine besylate) (AAP)
- **JAMP PIRFENIDONE* 267 mg capsule** (pirfenidone) (JPC) via SA
- **SANDOZ PIRFENIDONE* 267 mg & 801 mg tablets** (pirfenidone) (SDZ) via SA

Addition of the following Entry IC Drug Products to the *ADBL* has resulted in the creation of New IC Groupings, effective September 1, 2021:

- **APO-DARIFENACIN* 7.5 mg & 15 mg extended-release tablets** (darifenacin hydrobromide) (APX) via Step Therapy/SA
- **TARO-BUDESONIDE 0.25 mg/mL inhalation suspension** (budesonide) (TAR)

Highlights of Biosimilar Drug Products Added

The following Biosimilar Drug Products were added to the *ADBL* effective August 1, 2021:

- **ADMELOG 100 unit/mL injection & injection cartridge and ADMELOG PEN 100 unit/mL injection** (insulin lispro) (SAV)
- **INCLUNOX 30 mg/0.3 mL syringe** (enoxaparin sodium) (SDZ)
- **NOROMBY 30 mg/0.3 mL, 40 mg/0.4 mL, 60 mg/0.6 mL, 80 mg/0.8 mL & 100 mg/mL injection syringes**

and **NOROMBY HP 120 mg/0.8 mL & 150 mg/mL injection syringes** (enoxaparin sodium) (JUN)

The following Biosimilar Drug Product was added to the *ADBL* effective September 1, 2021:

- **RIXIMYO* 10 mg/mL injection** (rituximab) (SDZ) via SA for the indications of Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (GPA) or Microscopic Polyangiitis (MPA)

Highlights of Changes to Currently Listed Products

The benefit listing status of the following Drug Products have been changed from Regular Benefits to Restricted Benefits effective August 1, 2021:

- **HUMALOG* 100 units/mL vial, cartridge & Kwikpen injections** (insulin lispro) (LIL)

The interchangeable status for the following Drug Product on the *ADBL* has been changed effective September 1, 2021:

- **JAMP-NYSTATIN 100,000 unit/mL oral suspension** (nystatin) (JPC) is now in an IC grouping with other nystatin 100,000 unit/mL Drug Products.

Highlights of Diabetes Supplies Added

The following brands of blood glucose test strips were added to the *ADBL* via Restricted Benefit effective August 1, 2021:

- **ACCU-CHEK AVIVA, ACCU-CHEK COMPACT, ACCU-CHEK GUIDE and ACCU-CHEK MOBILE blood glucose test strips** (RDC)
- **CARESENS N MULTI blood glucose test strips** (SEN)
- **CONTOUR and CONTOUR NEXT blood glucose test strips** (ADC)
- **FIRST CANADIAN HEALTH SPIRIT blood glucose test strips** (ARP)
- **FREESTYLE LITE and FREESTYLE PRECISION blood glucose test strips** (ABD)
- **GE200 blood glucose test strips** (BNE)
- **MEDISURE blood glucose test strips** (MDS)
- **ONE TOUCH ULTRA and ONE TOUCH VERIO blood glucose test strips** (LIF)
- **RAPID RESPONSE GLUCO-MD blood glucose test strips** (BTN)

Note: With the listing of the above blood glucose test strips, the generic pseudo identification number currently

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used by pharmacies to submit claims for blood glucose test strips for members of a government-sponsored drug plan will be removed from the *ADBL*. As of September 1, 2021, claims will no longer be paid under that generic pseudo identification number.

Special Authorization Criteria Changes

The Special Authorization criteria for coverage for the following Drug Products have been revised effective August 1, 2021:

- **COSENTYX* 150 mg/mL injection** (secukinumab) (NOV) for the indication of Ankylosing Spondylitis
- **KALYDECO* 150 mg tablet** (ivacaftor) (VER)
- **XELJANZ* 5 mg tablet and XELJANZ XR* 11 mg extended-release tablet** (tofacitinib citrate) (PFI) for the indication of Rheumatoid Arthritis

The Special Authorization criteria for coverage for the following Drug Products have been revised effective September 1, 2021:

- Donepezil hydrochloride* **5 mg & 10 mg tablets** (AHI, APX, AUR, BMD, JPC, MAR, MPI, NTP, PFI, PMS, RAN, SDZ, SNS, SEP, SIV & TEV)
- Galantamine* **8 mg, 16 mg & 24 mg extended-release capsules** (AUR, MYP, PMS & SNS)
- Rivastigmine hydrogen tartrate* **1.5 mg, 3 mg, 4.5 mg & 6 mg capsules** (APX, GMP, JPC, SDZ & NOV) and **2 mg/mL oral solution** (NOV)

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