

# DBL Report

Issue #144 | May 2025

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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The following are highlights of recent changes to the *ADBL* and other topics of general interest. Please refer to the current *ADBL* for explanations of coverage, including a listing of coverage criteria (where applicable) [DBL Publications | Alberta.ca](#).

## Brief Summary of Drug Review Activities

The Expert Committee on Drug Evaluation and Therapeutics met on March 18, 2025. The Committee reviewed Manufacturer submissions for fourteen (14) Drug Products for potential listing, or change in listing, on the *ADBL*. The Committee also considered information for a number of supplementary assessments related to the coverage status of thirteen (13) Drug Products.

In addition to Drug Products reviewed by the Expert Committee, forty-four (44) Drug Products and Devices underwent Expedited Review for listing on the *ADBL* effective May 1, 2025.

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 by Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC)

The following Drug Products were reviewed by CDA-AMC and the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL*:

EFFECTIVE DATE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	LISTING STATUS
April 1, 2025	REMSIMA SC 120 MG/ML INJECTION PEN (INFLIXIMAB) CELLTRION HEALTHCARE CANADA LTD	Special Authorization
May 1, 2025	SOHONOS 1 MG, 1.5 MG, 2.5 MG, 5 MG & 10 MG CAPSULES (PALOVAROTENE) IPSEN BIOPHARM LIMITED	Special Authorization

## Highlights of Drug Products Added to the ADBL

The following Drug Products were added to the ADBL:

EFFECTIVE DATE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	DETAILS	LISTING STATUS
April 1, 2025	IXIFI 100 MG/VIAL INJECTION (INFLIXIMAB) PFIZER CANADA ULC	Biosimilar Drug Product	Special Authorization
April & May 1, 2025	FLUTICASONE HFA 50 MCG/DOSE METERED AEROSOL DRUG PRODUCTS (FLUTICASONE PROPIONATE) APOTEX INC. & PHARMASCIENCE INC.	Establishment of New Interchangeable (IC Grouping)	Regular Benefits
May 1, 2025	APO-LEVOTHYROXINE 88 MCG & 137 MCG TABLETS (LEVOTHYROXINE SODIUM) APOTEX INC.		Regular Benefits
	TARO-DEFERIPRONE 1000 MG TABLET (DEFERIPRONE) TARO PHARMACEUTICALS INC.		Special Authorization
	TARO-TOFACITINIB XR 11 MG EXTENDED-RELEASE TABLET (TOFACITINIB CITRATE) TARO PHARMACEUTICALS INC.		

## Highlights of Changes to the ADBL

The following Drug Products on the ADBL incurred changes:

EFFECTIVE DATE	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	UPDATES
April 1, 2025	INFLECTRA 100 MG/VIAL INJECTION (INFLIXIMAB) PFIZER CANADA ULC	<p>Pfizer's agreement with Celltrion Healthcare for Inflectra ended March 31, 2025, with Pfizer ceasing to promote Inflectra as of April 1, 2025. Pfizer will distribute remaining inventory and continue patient support through September 30, 2025. Healthcare professionals must transition patients to an alternative infliximab product before that date.</p> <p>Due to this change, an administrative note for coverage has been added to all listed Inflectra indications to communicate that all new Special Authorization requests for Pfizer labelled Inflectra for treatment naïve patients will no longer be approved. Infliximab naïve patients will need to be assessed for coverage with other currently listed infliximab biosimilars and will require an appropriate prescription.</p>
May 1, 2025	JUBBONTI 60 MG/ML INJECTION SYRINGE	Preamble in the Special Authorization criteria has been removed due to the Alberta Biosimilar Initiative.



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(DENOSUMAB) SANDOZ  
CANADA INC.

PROLIA 60 MG/ML  
INJECTION SYRINGE  
(DENOSUMAB) AMGEN  
CANADA INC.

Delisted due to the Alberta Biosimilar Initiative.

## Listing Status Changes

As part of the Review of Benefit Status (ROBS) process, a comprehensive clinical review of Triptan Drug Products was undertaken by the Expert Committee. Following this review, the Expert Committee recommended the coverage status of Triptan Drug Products be revised. Effective May 1, 2025, the listing status for Triptan Drug Products (Various brands will be revised from **Restricted Benefit/Special Authorization benefits to Regular Benefits**.



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