

the **DBL** report

Issue #68, August 2012

An Official Accompaniment to the Alberta Health and Wellness Drug Benefit List (AHWDBL) 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 May 23 and 24, 2012. The Committee reviewed Manufacturer submissions for 43 Drug Products for potential listing or change in listing status on the AHWDBL.

The following are highlights of recent changes to the AHWDBL. A complete list of changes and the full AHWDBL can be found at <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/dbl/publications.html>.

Expanded Funding to Cover Diabetes Self-management Supplies

On February 16, 2012 the Alberta Government announced expanded funding for Albertans with insulin-treated diabetes. As part of the diabetic supply initiative the following products will be funded: syringes, pen needles, lancets, blood glucose and urine testing strips. The criteria for this Restricted Benefit is as follows: "This product is a benefit for patients with diabetes who are currently and regularly using insulin. Eligible individuals will have coverage to a maximum of \$600 per person each benefit year for eligible diabetic supplies purchased from a licensed pharmacy." Please refer to the current AHWDBL for a full listing of coverage criteria.

Highlights of Products Added to the AHWDBL

pms-Valacyclovir (valacyclovir hydrochloride) (PMS) **1000 mg caplet**. **pms-Valacyclovir** was submitted as line-extension to the existing **500 mg** strength. The Expert Committee recommended addition to the AHWDBL as it offers a therapeutic advantage by decreasing pill burden, as well as a cost advantage by providing savings over the use of two 500 mg caplets.

In addition, the following Interchangeable Drug Products were recommended for addition to the AHWDBL effective August 1, 2012:

- **Apo-Zolmitriptan** (zolmitriptan) (APX) **2.5 mg tablet**
- **Mar-Rizatriptan** (rizatriptan benzoate) (MAR) **5 mg & 10 mg tablets**

A complete list of changes, as well as the full AHWBL may be accessed at <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/dbl/publications.html>.

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