

the  **ADBL** *report*

Issue #94, November 2016

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 September 22, 2016. The Committee reviewed Manufacturer submissions for thirty-six (36) 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 twenty-nine (29) Drug Products.

In addition to Drug Products reviewed by the Expert Committee, eight (8) Drug Products underwent Expedited Review for listing on the *ADBL* effective October 1, 2016, and one (1) Drug Product underwent Expedited Review for listing on the *ADBL* effective November 1, 2016.

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.html>

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

The following Drug Products were reviewed by CDR and the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* via Special Authorization effective November 1, 2016:

- **ESBRIET*** (pirfenidone) (HLR) **267 mg capsule**
- **OFEV*** (nintedanib esilate) (BOE) **100 mg & 150 mg capsules**

Highlights of Interchangeable (IC) Drug Products Added

Addition of the following Entry IC Drug Product to the *ADBL* has resulted in the creation of a New IC Grouping, effective November 1, 2016:

- **JAMP-BEZAFIBRATE** (bezafibrate) (JPC) **400 mg sustained-release tablet**

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

The following IC Drug Products were reviewed by the Expert Committee and added to the ADBL effective November 1, 2016:

- **MYLAN-VERAPAMIL SR** (verapamil hydrochloride) (MYP) **180 mg sustained-release tablet**
- **SANDOZ CIPROFLOXACIN** (ciprofloxacin hydrochloride) (SDZ) **0.3% ophthalmic solution**

The following IC Drug Product was reviewed by the Expert Committee and added to the ADBL as a Restricted Benefit effective November 1, 2016:

- **SANDOZ MOMETASONE** (mometasone furoate) (SDZ) **50 mcg/dose aqueous nasal spray**

Highlights of Other Products Added

The following Infant Formula was added to the ADBL via Special Authorization effective November 1, 2016:

- **PURAMINO A+*** (infant formula) (MJO) **powder**

The following Natural Health Products were reviewed by the Expert Committee and added to the ADBL effective November 1, 2016:

- **DERMAFLEX HC** (hydrocortisone acetate/urea) (PAL) **1% cream & topical lotion**

Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC) New Category

On October 1, 2016, Alberta government sponsored plans introduced Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC) pricing for eligible proton pump inhibitors (PPI), with the MAC price based on the lowest cost PPI. This change was made based on the evidence and advice of expert bodies from across Canada. According to work done by the Canadian Agency for Drug and Technologies in Health, all medications for acid reflux conditions are considered therapeutically similar and equally effective. Choosing Wisely Canada, in partnership with the Canadian Medical Association, has patient information regarding the use of PPIs available online at

<http://www.choosingwiselycanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/GERD-EN-web.pdf>

There is a four month transition which will allow patients currently using a PPI that is not the MAC product to have their prescription changed to the MAC product, if appropriate. Starting in February 2017, coverage will be provided only to the level of the lowest cost medication for the category.

The following IC groupings* are affected:

Lansoprazole (various brands) 15 mg delayed-release capsule	<i>MAC pricing for products in these IC groupings will be applied February 1, 2017 based on the LCA Price for Rabeprazole Sodium 1 X 10 mg enteric-coated tablet.</i>
Omeprazole (various brands) 10 mg capsule/sustained-release tablet	
Rabeprazole sodium (various brands) 10 mg enteric-coated tablet	
Lansoprazole (various brands) 30 mg delayed-release capsule	<i>MAC pricing for products in these IC groupings will be applied February 1, 2017 based on the LCA Price for Pantoprazole Magnesium 1 X 40 mg enteric-coated tablet.</i>
Omeprazole (various brands) 20 mg capsule/sustained-release tablet	
Pantoprazole magnesium (various brands) 40 mg enteric-coated tablet	
Pantoprazole sodium (various brands) 40 mg enteric-coated tablet	
Rabeprazole sodium (various brands) 20 mg enteric-coated tablet	

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