

## Drug Benefit List Glossary

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**HSDBS:** The *Human Services Drug Benefit Supplement* defines the drugs and drug products that are covered for Alberta Human Services clients in addition to the drugs and drug products defined in the *Alberta Drug Benefit List* (with certain exclusions).

The *Supplement* was developed to take into consideration the essential needs of clients in the context of Alberta Human Services programs.

**ADBL:** The *Alberta Drug Benefit List* defines the drugs and drug products 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,
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 and Wellness 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 *Human Services Drug Benefit Supplement* must also be considered.)

**ATC (Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical):** A classification assigned to a drug according to the organ or system on which it acts and its chemical, pharmacological and therapeutic properties.

**Interchangeable Products:** An interchangeable drug product is a drug product that has been designated as interchangeable by the Minister of Health after reviewing the recommendations of the Expert Committee and Alberta Health. Recommendations regarding interchangeability are made taking into consideration the scientific, therapeutic, clinical and socio-economic merits of drug products. Drug products designated as interchangeable are expected to have the same clinical effect and safety profile when administered to patients under the conditions specified in the labeling. The designation of interchangeability is made only for the purpose of funding of drug benefits covered under the Alberta government-sponsored drug benefit programs and is not to be used as a scientific reference or prescribing guide.

**LCA (Least Cost Alternative) Price:** The Least Cost Alternative (LCA) price is the lowest unit cost established for a drug product within a set of interchangeable drug products.

**Limited Restricted Benefit:** A device or drug product only eligible for coverage with limits(s) and restriction(s).

**MAC (Maximum Allowable Cost) Price:** The maximum unit cost established for a specific drug product or a selected group of drug products.

**Optional Special Authorization:** The drug products listed in this section may be considered for coverage by optional special authorization for patients covered under Alberta Health and Wellness-sponsored drug programs. (For Alberta Human Services clients, the optional special authorization criteria for coverage can be found in the Criteria for Optional Special Authorization of Select Drug Products section of the *Alberta Human Services Drug Benefit Supplement*.)

**Palliative Coverage DBS (Drug Benefit Supplement):** Benefits for *Palliative Coverage* are defined by the *Alberta Drug Benefit List* and the *Palliative Coverage Drug Benefit Supplement* (which defines select hydrating agents, laxatives and other products as additional benefits).

**Pharmacologic-Therapeutic Classification (PTC):** A drug classification system developed by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists for the purpose of the American Hospital Formulary Service.

**Provincial Drug Schedule:** A drug classification system corresponding to terms of sale.

**Quoted Price:** The price for a given drug product as quoted by the manufacturer.

**Regular Benefit:** A device or drug product that is eligible for coverage for a subscriber for of an Alberta government-sponsored drug plan.

**Restricted Benefit:** A device or drug product only eligible for coverage with restriction(s).

**Alberta Human Services Special Authorization:** The drug products listed in this section may be considered for coverage by special authorization for Alberta Human Services clients.

- Select special authorization drug products are eligible for **auto-renewal** or for coverage via the **step therapy** process. Please see Section 3 of the *Alberta Human Services Drug Benefit Supplement* for complete details.

**Alberta Health Special Authorization:** The drug products listed in this section may be considered for coverage by special authorization for patients covered under Alberta Health-sponsored drug programs.

- Select special authorization drug products are eligible for **auto-renewal** or for coverage via the **step therapy** process. Please see Section 3 of the *List* for complete details.

(For Alberta Human Services clients, the special authorization criteria for coverage can be found in the Criteria for Special Authorization of Select Drug Products section of the *Alberta Human Services Drug Benefit Supplement*.)

**Unit of Issue:** The unit of measurement or metric weight upon which pricing for the drug product is determined.