

ALBERTA BLUE CROSS® PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

GOVERNMENT OF NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (GNWT) PHARMACY REFERENCE GUIDE FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

June 2023

Overview	1
Programs	1
NWT Métis Health Benefits Program (Group 19866)	1
Extended Health Benefits for Specified Disease Conditions Program (Group 21992)	1
Extended Health Benefits for Seniors Program (Group 60)	1
Prescription drugs	1
Special authorization	2
Biosimilar initiative	2
Biosimilar exceptions	3
Claiming for GNWT programs.....	3
Fax number	3
Coordination of benefits.....	3

Overview

The GNWT sponsors extended health benefits programs to provide eligible residents of the Northwest Territories access to a range of benefits not covered by hospital and medical care insurance. Alberta Blue Cross administers benefits for these programs on behalf of the GNWT.

Programs

NWT Métis Health Benefits Program (Group 19866)

The GNWT sponsors the Métis Health Benefits Program to provide eligible Indigenous Métis residents of the Northwest Territories access to a range of benefits not covered by hospital and medical care insurance.

Extended Health Benefits for Specified Disease Conditions Program (Group 21992)

The GNWT sponsors the Extended Health Benefits for Specified Disease Conditions Program to provide non-Aboriginal and Métis residents of the Northwest Territories who have specified disease conditions with certain benefits not covered by hospital and medical care insurance.

Extended Health Benefits for Seniors Program (Group 60)

The GNWT sponsors the Extended Health Benefits for Seniors Program to provide eligible residents of the Northwest Territories who are 60 years of age and over access to a range of benefits not covered by hospital and medical care insurance.

Prescription drugs

This program provides coverage for eligible prescription drug products as defined by Indigenous Services Canada [Non-Insured Health Benefit \(NIHB\) Drug Benefit List](#) when the drug is prescribed by a recognized health care professional and dispensed by a licensed pharmacist. There are a few cases when the program will not cover the full cost of the claim and the client may need to pay out of pocket:

- if the drug that is prescribed is not listed on the [NIHB Drug Benefit List](#), or
- if the client wants a drug that is not the lowest cost equivalent (generic).

Special authorization

Some prescription drugs require special authorization for the medication to be covered by the program. If a medication that has been prescribed for a client is listed as a “limited benefit” on the NIHB Drug Benefit list, a [Request for Exception Drug Form](#) must be submitted to Alberta Blue Cross for assessment of coverage.

If a medication prescribed for a client is not on the [NIHB Drug Benefit List](#), a [Request for Exception Drug Form](#) may be sent to Alberta Blue Cross on the client’s behalf for prior authorization. The exception drug coverage is for a period not exceeding 12 months after which a request may be resubmitted for approval or the client may pay the cost.

Biosimilars Initiative

The GNWT has a Biosimilars Initiative for the extended health benefit programs. The Biosimilars Initiative is an evidence-informed strategy to optimize public resources to get the best value for treatments and improve access to medications for patients. Increasing the uptake of biosimilar medicines will contribute to the sustainability of the public drug plans.

The GNWT will no longer provide coverage for the originator brand drugs listed in the 2nd column of the table below.

Active ingredient	Originator biologic product	Biosimilar product
Adalimumab	Humira®	Amgevita® Hadlima® Hulio® Hyrimoz® Idacio®
Enoxaparin	Lovenox®	Inclunox® Noromby® Redesca®
Etanercept	Enbrel®	Brenzys® Erelzi®
Infliximab	Remicade®	Inflectra® Renflexis® Avsola®
Insulin glargine	Lantus®	Basaglar®
Insulin lispro	Humalog®	Admelog®
Insulin aspart	NovoRapid®	Trurapi®
Filgrastim	Neupogen®	Grastofil® Nivestym®
Pegfilgrastim	Neulasta®	Lapelga® Fulphila® Nyvepria®
Rituximab	Rituxan®	Truxima® Riximyo® Ruxience® Riabni® ¹

Active ingredient	Originator biologic product	Biosimilar product
Glatiramer ²	Copaxone®	Glatect®

¹To be listed

²Non-biologic complex drug

Future off-patent biosimilar originators will be added to this policy following Health Canada approval of a biosimilar brand alternative and GNWT's review of manufacturers' submissions.

Biosimilar exceptions

If there is a medical reason why a patient cannot utilize the biosimilar, the prescriber can submit a request for exceptional coverage to Alberta Blue Cross using the [Request for Exception Drug Form](#). In the request, the prescriber must clearly identify why the patient is unable to switch their medication and provide evidence that all biosimilar drug products have been tried prior to the request being made. If a trial has been attempted and halted, the trial must be well documented and a rationale for halting use of the biosimilar therapy must be included in a request for exception. Requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Claiming for GNWT programs

Eligible pharmacies can submit claims for clients of GNWT for direct bill payment. Prescription drug claims can be direct billed using the Alberta Blue Cross PrideRT system. Claims that are not eligible for direct bill, such as for high-cost drug claims over \$9,999.99, must be submitted on the Alberta Blue Cross secure pharmacy provider website, or faxed to Alberta Blue Cross using a Manual Drug Claim form.

Manual drug claim form submission

Fax: 1-888-401-7038 (toll free)

Coordination of benefits

In addition to benefits sponsored by the GNWT, the client may also have coverage for prescription drug benefits through another supplementary health benefit plan.

In such cases, all GNWT program benefits are considered **payor of last resort**.



**The Blue Cross symbol and name are registered marks of the Canadian Association of Blue Cross Plans, an association of independent Blue Cross plans. Licensed to ABC Benefits Corporation for use in operating the Alberta Blue Cross Plan. *Blue Shield is a registered trade-mark of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. GO23-013 2023/06