

the pharmacy Benefact

A Bulletin for Pharmacy Service Providers from Alberta Blue Cross®

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Plavix added to the *AHWDBL* as a Limited Restricted Benefit

Effective March 1, 2002, Plavix will be added as a Limited Restricted Benefit to the *Alberta Health and Wellness Drug Benefit List (AHWDBL)* and the *Alberta Human Resources and Employment Drug Benefit Supplement*. Plavix prescriptions filled on or after this date for participants of Alberta government-sponsored drug benefit programs only will be affected by the change.

The Limited Restricted Benefit will provide expedited Plavix coverage for stent patients, allowing the patient to begin drug therapy immediately after a stent is inserted.

Background information

Plavix has been eligible by special authorization on the *AHWDBL* for participants of Alberta government-sponsored drug benefit programs since January 2000. One of the existing criteria for special authorization of Plavix is “**for the prevention of thrombosis, for one month, when prescribed following intravascular stent placement.**” Plavix is also available by special authorization for other indications. Please refer to the *AHWDBL* for the published criteria for coverage.

Limited Restricted Benefit limited to designated prescribers

At this time, the Limited Restricted Benefit for Plavix is restricted to prescriptions from designated prescribers: Specialists in Cardiology, Cardiac Surgery, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery or General Surgery. A list of current designated prescribers was mailed to physicians and pharmacists with the *March 1, 2002, AHWDBL Additions To* for Plavix.

Coverage for Plavix as a Limited Restricted Benefit is limited to **one month** following a patient's **first** intravascular stent placement, when prescribed by a designated prescriber. If Plavix is required for repeat stents or for ongoing use for other indications, special authorization is required.

Important claims information for pharmacists

Pharmacists may submit claims for Plavix as per the standard claims process. In order for a claim to be paid through the Limited Restricted Benefit, the **prescriber identification number** of the designated prescriber (physician) must be entered.

After the one-month Limited Restricted Benefit supply has been used, future claims for Plavix will be rejected unless special authorization has been granted. For Alberta Health and Wellness program participants, response code messaging to the pharmacy will indicate that special authorization is required.

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Effective March 1, 2002, Plavix coverage will be made available to first time stent patients for one month when prescribed by a designated prescriber. This change applies only to Alberta government-sponsored programs.

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*The physician's
prescriber identification number
must be entered to claim for the
Limited Restricted Benefit for Plavix.
Recent physician ID information is
available from your software vendor.*

Prescriber identification number required for claims

In order for the claim to be paid through the Limited Restricted Benefit, the prescriber identification number of the designated prescriber must be entered. If a physician who is not a designated prescriber has prescribed Plavix, special authorization is required (even if it is for a stent).

When submitting claims for this product through the PRIDE RT® network using the physician's prescriber identification number you will receive one of the following response code messaging:

RO – LRB, future fills require special authorization
RP – LRB maximum exceeded, requires special authorization

Once the one month Limited Restricted Benefit supply has been used, future claims for Plavix will reject unless special authorization has been granted.

Should you require recent physician ID information, please contact your software vendor for assistance on accessing this information.



*For more information on pharmacy topics, please contact your pharmacy
services representatives at **498-8370** (Edmonton and area),
294-4041 (Calgary and area) or **1-800-361-9632** toll free.*