

Coverage criteria for Champix® revised for Alberta Government sponsored programs

Effective March 1, 2012, coverage criteria for Champix® has been revised for Alberta Government sponsored programs.

Restricted benefit criteria

This product is a benefit in patients 18 years of age and older for smoking cessation treatment in conjunction with smoking cessation counseling. Coverage will be granted for a total of 12 weeks.

Please note that for this restricted benefit, for the first 12 weeks of therapy, the patient does not need to be enrolled in a counseling program. It is sufficient for the prescriber to be aware that the patient has been referred to or is receiving counseling. The patients will no longer be required to present written proof of enrolment from a tobacco-cessation program, and pharmacists will no longer require the use of an intervention code of "UF-patient gave adequate explanation, prescription filled as written" on the direct-bill claim.

Special authorization criteria

For subsequent prescriptions, patients may obtain this product via Special Authorization (criteria for coverage as per Section 3 of the *Alberta Health and Wellness Drug Benefit List*, SA form ABC20061) with the following criteria for coverage:

For use in patients 18 years of age and older for smoking cessation treatment in conjunction with smoking cessation counseling. Special authorization coverage may be granted for a maximum of 24 weeks of therapy per year.

Please note that special authorization coverage may be granted resulting in a maximum of 24 weeks of therapy per consecutive 12-month period when the prescriber indicates that the patient is receiving smoking cessation counseling, including but not limited to a tobacco-cessation program.

Coverage for the first 12 weeks of therapy as a Restricted Benefit in the first consecutive 12-month period is to be included in reaching the maximum total of coverage of 24 weeks of therapy per consecutive 12-month period by Special Authorization.

The following product(s) are not eligible for auto-renewal.

Champix® products eligible for coverage include starter pack - 25 tablets (14-day supply), DIN 02298309; Champix® 1 mg, DIN 02291185; or Champix® 0.5 mg, DIN 02291177.

For information about tobacco-cessation, please call AlbertaQuits Helpline 1-866-710-QUIT (7848).



For more information on pharmacy topics, please contact your Pharmacy Services representatives at:

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)
403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)
1-800-361-9632 (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406
(Edmonton and area)
FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)