

## New coverage of diabetic supplies for Alberta Health supplementary drug plans

As announced on February 16, 2012, and as part of the Alberta government's investment in people, Alberta Health is expanding coverage for supplies needed by insulin-treated diabetics.

**Commencing July 1, 2012**, Alberta Health-sponsored drug plans will cover the full cost of the following diabetic supplies to a maximum of \$600 per benefit year (July 1 to June 30): lancets, syringes, needles and test strips. There is no co-pay for these products.

Individuals who are currently and regularly receiving insulin to treat their diabetes and are covered under the *Coverage for Seniors* (Groups 66 and 66A), *Non-Group Coverage* (Group 1) or *Palliative Care Drug Coverage* (Group 20514) plans are eligible for this benefit.

Licensed pharmacies can bill these products through Alberta Blue Cross's Real-time adjudication system until the \$600 yearly maximum for an eligible individual has been reached.

Government-sponsored coverage of diabetic supplies currently available through *Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)* (Group 19823), *Child and Youth Support* (Group 20403), *Alberta Adult Health Benefit* (Group 19823), *Alberta Child Health Benefit* (Group 20400, 20401, 20402), *Children's Services* (Group 19824), *Income Support* (Group 19823) and *Learners Program* (Group 22128) remains unchanged.

The following PINs will be used for claims to the Alberta Health-sponsored drug plans:

PIN	Product description
00000999955	Blood glucose test strips
00000999941	Blood letting lancet
00000999985	Insulin pen needles
00000999952	Insulin syringes
00000999957	Urine test strips

Confirmation that the patient is currently and regularly being treated with insulin will be required for coverage. Alberta Blue Cross will review 12 months of the patient's prescription claims history to validate that there has been a claim paid for insulin. For those patients new to an Alberta Health-sponsored drug plan or those without a recent insulin claim, the pharmacist will be able to use the following intervention code: **MZ – required prior therapy documented**, once the pharmacist has confirmed that the patient is currently and regularly being treated with insulin.

***New coverage of diabetic supplies for Alberta Health supplementary drug plans continued . . .***

Effective July 1, 2012, coverage for the Alberta Monitoring for Health Program (AMFH), which is administered by the Canadian Diabetes Association using Quickcard, will change for some clients:

- All insulin-treated members of *Coverage for Seniors*, *Non-Group Coverage* and *Palliative Care Drug Coverage* will receive coverage of their diabetic supplies through these Alberta Health-sponsored supplementary health plans, administered by Alberta Blue Cross, instead of AMFH. **Clients are not eligible to receive concurrent coverage from both programs.**
- Alberta women with insulin-treated gestational diabetes and no other insurance coverage for such benefits will now be eligible for up to \$600 in diabetic supply coverage per pregnancy through AMFH.

Low-income Albertans without public or private diabetic supplies insurance coverage will continue to be eligible for benefits through AMFH, regardless of how they manage their condition (that is, with insulin, oral medications or by diet/exercise).



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