

Alberta Blue Cross Pharmaceutical Services Provider Agreement Update for pharmacies located in British Columbia and Saskatchewan

As announced in the Pharmacy package sent to all pharmacies March 12, 2018, the new Alberta Blue Cross Pharmaceutical Services Provider Agreement (the Agreement) will come into effect on May 17, 2018. The package, including a termination letter pertaining to the current Agreement and an offer of the new Agreement, was couriered to all pharmacies, head offices and / or corporate offices on March 12, 2018.

We invite you to continue to support our shared customers by signing and returning the new Agreement as soon as possible. Adequate time for verification and processing your new Agreement is required and ensures you avoid a lapse in your direct-bill claims adjudication as of May 17, 2018.

This Benefact outlines how the new Agreement will affect your pharmacy while providing support for our shared customers:

- Alberta Government-sponsored drug program members, and
- Alberta Blue Cross national employer-sponsored group plan members.

Alberta Blue Cross administers Alberta Government-sponsored drug programs, including those that allow direct billing from British Columbia and Saskatchewan. In addition, we administer many national employer-sponsored group plans, which also allow plan members to use direct billing for their prescription drug benefits across Canada.

Under this Agreement, the changes that may impact your pharmacy are related to the dispensing fee being reduced from 12.30 to \$12.15, the Frequent Dispensing Policy and the Holdback Policy (for **Alberta Government-sponsored plans only**).

Frequent Dispensing Policy (FDP) applies for drug benefits that are being dispensed with a days' supply of less than 28 days. The current policies regulating the dispensation of medications with a day supply for 28 or greater remain the same. The FDP is applied to all Alberta Blue Cross plans unless, under *Coverage*, in the new Agreement, the employer sponsored group plan chooses to not follow this policy. In this instance, rely on your real-time claims adjudication results to determine the plan member's co-pay.

- For daily dispensing—the maximum number of dispensing fees per patient that are eligible is three per day.
- For two to 27-day supply—the maximum number of dispensing fees per patient that are eligible is two per drug grouping in a 27-day period. A drug grouping is based on the Drug Product Database (DPD) Active Ingredient Group (AIG). An AIG is a product that has the same active ingredients and ingredient strengths.

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Additional information on the FDP can be found on the Alberta Blue Cross pharmacy provider site at www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-agreement.php.

Effective April 1, 2019, the Holdback Policy applies to **only Alberta Government sponsored plans and does not apply to Alberta Blue Cross employer-sponsored plans**. The holdback per cent is initially set at 10 per cent for dispensing fees, and upcharges. **This will not be applied to the drug cost**. At the end of each quarter the actual spend is reconciled against the budgeted amount. The holdback will be returned in its entirety to pharmacies should the actual spend be less than the amount budgeted. Additional information on the Holdback Policy can be found on the Alberta Blue Cross pharmacy provider site at www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php.

Alberta Blue Cross appreciates the close working relationship we have with the pharmacy community and are committed to sharing information about the new funding framework and how it impacts our partnership.

When you have questions:

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative 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)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefits and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims. Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php



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