

## Additional information regarding enhancements to Specified Disease Conditions, Seniors and Métis Health Benefits Programs

As communicated in Benefact 964, effective August 1, 2021, the Government of Northwest Territories is enhancing its drug adjudication process for Specified Disease Conditions, Seniors and Métis Health Benefits Programs. In response to feedback around the Long Term Dispensing Policy, the following information is provided to further explain how this policy will apply.

### Applicable products

The policy is intended to address dispensing of maintenance drugs—drug products that have an indication for long-term use. Maintenance drug products are often prescribed to patients with chronic conditions that can be safely and effectively managed on an on-going basis. The list of maintenance categories can be found in Benefact 964. Clinical pharmacists have reviewed each drug in these categories to ensure any drugs that are not maintenance drugs have not been included. The applicable products will be identified with a claims response of “KX – patient eligible for maintenance supply”.

### Intervention codes available

Intervention codes may be used to allow for lesser days supply in the following situations. Note: code MY has been added since Benefact 964 was distributed and the description of scenarios for CO have been expanded.

Scenario	CPhA code allowed
Temporarily required to accommodate a dosage change.	NI = dosage change
Temporarily required in select cases where there is less than 90 days remaining on the balance of a prescription and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the prescription was previously filled for 90 to 100 days’ supply,</li> <li>a new prescription cannot be obtained, and</li> <li>the prescription is not appropriate for pharmacist adaptation to a 90-day supply.</li> </ul> Refills or new prescriptions when prescribed or dispensed in accordance with a court order.	NF = override - quantity appropriate
If there are concerns due to overdose or abuse risk with the specific patient having a maintenance days’ supply on hand.  If the pharmacist or physician has concerns around compliance due to complex therapies or multiple medications.  If the patient has a medical condition that prevents compliance to their medication regime requiring blister packs.  If the patient has a medical condition that has caused them to lose medications.  If the patient has compliance challenges due to homelessness.	CO = potential overuse/abuse
If the patient resides in a group home or long-term care home.	MY = long term care Rx split for compliance

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The following are examples of scenarios where an intervention code may not be used and the patient will have to pay the dispensing fee.

- Patient preference to receive maintenance medication less than 90 days.
- Less than 90-day blister packs due to patient preference.

## Timelines

Beginning August 1, the Alberta Blue Cross Pride RT real-time claim adjudication system will return the response code of “KX – patient eligible for maintenance supply” for applicable claims. Plan members will be eligible for three claims for the drug product after August 1 before you will receive the response code of “87 – Exceeds max # of prof fees for this drug” for days’ supply less than 90 days and the plan member will be responsible for paying the dispensing fee.

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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 Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit [ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php](http://ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php)

