

Alberta Blue Cross® group plans–enhanced step therapy management to apply dosing controls

Effective January 1, 2022, step therapy management for select Alberta Blue Cross employer-sponsored group plans will be enhanced to not only screen for the use of first-line drugs, but also applying dosing controls for select drugs. For these drugs, coverage will be provided only up to the maximum Health Canada approved dosing.

Expanded dosing controls will first be applied to the drug Victoza and will expand to include additional drugs in the future.

Victoza is a drug used for treatment of diabetes and it is managed via step therapy on select Alberta Blue Cross employer-sponsored group plans. Liraglutide, the active ingredient in Victoza, is also used at a higher daily dose in the treatment of obesity and is available under the name Saxenda for use in weight loss.

Dosing controls

	Victoza	Saxenda
Indication	Diabetes	Weight loss
Health Canada approved maximum daily dose	1.8 mg	3 mg

The dosing control applied to Victoza ensures coverage is only provided for diabetes dosing. If weight loss dosing is required, then coverage for Saxenda will follow the respective plan's coverage for weight loss medications if eligible under the plan.

Members who are currently taking Victoza at a dose higher than the maximum approved diabetes dose of 1.8 mg daily will not be impacted. Their current therapy will continue to be covered when the program is implemented on January 1, 2022.

Effective January 1, 2022, members new to the plan or newly prescribed Victoza, along with members currently on Victoza who increase their dose to above diabetes dosing, will be subject to the dosing control. Coverage for these individuals will be limited to dosages that are at or below the Health Canada approved diabetes dose.

Any Victoza claims above the maximum daily dose for diabetes will be rejected with the CPhA response code of **MJ - Dose Appears High**.

For example, Victoza (6 mg/ml):

Quantity claimed (ml)	Days' supply	Daily dose	Result
9	30	1.8 mg	Claim paid
9	18	3.0 mg	Claim rejected with response code MJ
27	90	1.8 mg	Claim paid
27	54	3.0 mg	Claim rejected with response code MJ

It is important that an accurate days' supply is submitted for proper claims adjudication.

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

