

Palliative care support—updated claiming process for pre-filled syringes

As previously communicated in **Benefact 962**, effective June 1, 2021, pre-filled syringes were added to the palliative benefits under the government-sponsored drug plans. This benefit includes disposable syringes and related supplies as well as the service of prefilling the syringe with an injectable prescription drug.

This benefit is eligible for those who have palliative coverage. This may be provided under Palliative Coverage group 20514 or may be added to Coverage for Seniors group 66 or Non-Group Coverage group 1 if an Albertan already had coverage under those plans prior to becoming palliative.

For patients to be eligible for palliative coverage, an application for the Palliative coverage program must be completed and signed by both the patient (or guardian) and the physician. For more information visit www.alberta.ca/palliative-care-health-benefits.aspx.

Eligible drug benefits to be used in pre-filled syringes

All injectable drugs listed on the *Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL)* and the *Palliative Care Drug Benefit Supplement (PCDBS)* are eligible. To submit a claim for pre-filled syringes you must document the product dispensed and verify that the product is eligible on the *ADBL* or *PCDBS*.

Note: the drug product used in pre-filled syringes cannot be claimed as a compound unless there is a mixture of drug products involved. The drug product used in pre-filled syringes containing a single product must be claimed using the DIN of the drug product.

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PHARMACY BENEFACT

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Claims process for pre-filled syringes

Effective **February 7, 2022**, when billing claims for pre-filling syringes for an eligible product, Alberta Blue Cross requires the claims be submitted electronically through the Alberta Blue Cross PRIDE-RT direct bill claim adjudication system. Claims will be paid at \$2 per pre-filled syringe, and must include the following claim data elements:

Data element	Value	Additional information
Group or section	Groups 20514, 66 or 1	As per the plan member's palliative coverage
Product Identification Number (PIN)	00000980002	Pre-filled syringe for palliative
Quantity	Total number of syringes provided to a plan member in one day, regardless of the number of drug products dispensed	Maximum submission of one claim per plan member per day
Drug cost	A maximum of \$2 per syringe. For example, if 6 syringes are provided, drug cost maximum = \$12 (6 x \$2).	If drug cost exceeds the maximum, claim will reject QH – calculated product price is too high
Upcharges #1 and #2	\$0	If upcharges are more than \$0, the claim will reject SE – maximum allowable upcharge exceeded
Dispensing fee	\$0	If dispensing fee is more than \$0, the claim will reject OL – maximum allowable dispensing fee exceeded
Prescriber ID	Pharmacist ID	
Prescriber reference code	86	

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

