

Alberta Blue Cross individual and employer-sponsored group plans—step therapy dosing controls

Step therapy management for select Alberta Blue Cross employer-sponsored group plans was recently enhanced to not only screen for the use of first-line drugs but also apply dosing controls for select drugs. For these drugs, coverage will be provided only up to the maximum dosing approved by Health Canada.

Step therapy dosing controls will be implemented for additional Alberta Blue Cross employer-sponsored group plans on March 1, 2022. In the coming months, implementation will be further expanded to include more employer-sponsored group plans, as well as individual plans.

As a reminder, dosing controls are 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 is managed through step therapy on select Alberta Blue Cross individual and 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
Maximum daily dose (as approved by Health Canada)	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.

At the time the dosing controls are implemented for a particular individual or employer-sponsored group plan, members of that plan currently taking Victoza at a dose higher than the maximum approved diabetes dose of 1.8 mg daily will not be impacted. Their therapy will continue to be covered when the program is implemented.

After the implementation date, members new to the plan or newly prescribed Victoza, along with members currently on Victoza that 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 diabetes dose approved by Health Canada.

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

continued next page

PHARMACY BENEFACT

continued from previous page

For example, Victoza (6mg/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

