

Tramadol compound PIN update

As of April 1, 2022, the Government of Canada has reclassified tramadol as a schedule 1 narcotic under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA). Due to this reclassification for tramadol, Alberta Blue Cross has decided to change compound PIN assignment for all oral and injectable tramadol compounds. With this change tramadol compounds will need to be adjudicated with PIN 999108 if mixed on-site or 999208 if purchased from a compounding pharmacy.

Paxlovid™ dispensing update

As of April 1, all pharmacy wholesale distributors have Paxlovid™ available, which pharmacies can order.

- If your pharmacy has elected to dispense Paxlovid™, please ensure that at least one course of treatment is **on-hand at all times**. Treatment with Paxlovid™ must begin within five (5) days of symptom onset; therefore, any delay in filling a prescription for Paxlovid™ puts this timing at risk for patients.
- Prescriptions for Paxlovid™ may be presented to pharmacies from prescribers other than those associated with the centralized Alberta Health Services prescribing process. Pharmacy teams are advised to accept all prescriptions from physicians or nurse practitioners prescribing Paxlovid™ and to conduct their full assessment of the patient regardless of the source of the prescription.
- If your pharmacy receives a prescription for Paxlovid™ and is unable to fill it, please note that it is critical to find another pharmacy to refer the patient to that can fill the prescription.
 - **Do not turn the patient away without providing assistance to source Paxlovid™ for immediate treatment of COVID-19.**
- The Alberta Blue Cross® website mapping tool available at ab.bluecross.ca/news/covid-19-immunization-program-information.php will show pharmacies that have elected to dispense Paxlovid™ and can be contacted.
- All pharmacies are asked to submit inventory information related to the COVID oral antiviral Paxlovid™ on the pharmacy provider website at ab.bluecross.ca/provider/type/pharmacy/secure-online-site.php.
- As always, it is the responsibility of the dispensing pharmacy to complete the full patient assessment, as well as all education and counselling.

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

