

Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) Gap Coverage Program

On April 1, 2020, the Government of Alberta established the Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) Gap Coverage Program (refer to Benefact Number 852, April 2020). The purpose of this program is to provide immediate, no-cost OAT prescription drugs—specifically methadone, buprenorphine/naloxone and extended release buprenorphine—to Albertans while they secure drug coverage through a health benefits plan.

The temporary OAT Gap Coverage period is calculated based on the quantity of OAT prescription drug dispensed. Program claims are adjudicated against a quantity limit of 1,500 mL for methadone, 360 tablets for buprenorphine/naloxone or four (4) syringes for buprenorphine extended release. This represents approximately 120 days of treatment for the average dose patient. **If a patient is using a higher dose, an extension request may be submitted to maintain coverage for 120 days.** For this purpose, the OAT Gap Coverage Program Extension Request Form should be completed by health care professionals only. In addition, it should be stated on the form that this extension request is for a patient who is using a higher dosage. Note that only fully completed forms will be processed. The form is available at idbl.ab.bluecross.ca/idbl/DBL/60082.pdf.

Patients do not need to have applied for supplementary health coverage for the form to be completed for patients who are using a higher dosage. However, extension requests for participants who have fully utilized their initial 120 days medication allotment is still only applicable to patients who have already applied for a supplementary health benefits program that is not yet active.

More information about this program is available at alberta.ca/opioid-agonist-therapy-gap-coverage-program.aspx.

Reminder: Humira delisted on government-sponsored drug plans

This communication is to remind you that as of May 1, 2022, Humira will be delisted from the government-sponsored drug plans (refer to Benefact 956). Adult patients currently taking the originator biologic drug, Humira, for ankylosing spondylitis, hidradenitis suppurativa, Crohn's disease, plaque psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and ulcerative colitis will be required to switch to the biosimilar version, to maintain coverage for this molecule through their Alberta government-sponsored drug plan.

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

