

Lowest cost equivalent drug adjudication

Effective **August 1, 2021**, the Government of Northwest Territories enhanced its drug adjudication process for Specified Disease Conditions, Seniors and Metis Health Benefits Programs to include lowest cost equivalent drug adjudication. It has come to our attention that in some instances coverage for the brand name drug has continued. Please be advised that this issue has been resolved and all claims will adjudicate correctly as of **November 15, 2022**.

As a reminder, the lowest cost equivalent drug adjudication process includes drugs that are designated as bioequivalent by Health Canada and have also been clinically assessed and validated to ensure they can be substituted for their brand-name equivalent drugs. Where the brand-name drug has a designated generic alternative, the plan will pay up to the cost of the generic.

Where a plan member elects to purchase the brand name, the plan member will be responsible for the difference in cost and the claim will result in a response code of D8 – Reduced to Generic cost. Coverage of the brand-name drug may be considered where a patient has experienced significant allergic reactions or documented untoward therapeutic effects with the generic product. An exception approval drug request form must be submitted to apply for coverage of the brand name drug.

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