

## Changes to ASEBP drug management programs

### Special authorization process

**Effective January 1, 2023**, all drug special authorization requests and renewals will be handled by Alberta Blue Cross. ASEBP is retiring its Enhanced Special Authorization (ESA) program, which was previously used to administer drug requests for specific health states, and will be using Alberta Blue Cross's drug special authorization program for all requests going forward.

If you currently have a patient with an authorization that was approved under the ESA program that expires between September 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023, it has been automatically extended for one year. Notification of this extension was mailed to covered members in August and September 2022. If a change in drug or dosage is required prior to January 1, 2023, your patient will need to follow ASEBP's existing ESA request process to facilitate this change.

To inquire about the status of a submitted special authorization request, pharmacists may visit the pharmacy provider site at [ab.bluecross.ca/providers-pharmacy-secure-online-site.php](https://ab.bluecross.ca/providers-pharmacy-secure-online-site.php) or contact the Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre at

- 780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area),
- 403-294-4041 (Calgary and area), or
- 1-800-361-9632 (toll free).

### Generic substitution policy

**Effective January 1, 2023**, ASEBP is also enhancing its generic substitution policy. The current Least Cost Alternative (LCA) generic program applies only to generics designated as interchangeable in Alberta by the Expert Committee and includes only drugs that are listed on the *Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL)*. The enhanced generic drug adjudication process will include additional generics approved for sale by Health Canada regardless of whether or not they are listed on the various provincial formularies, specifically the *ADBL*.

The generic drugs included in the enhancement 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. As per the current LCA program, 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 you will receive a response code of **D8 – Reduced to Generic cost**.

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](https://ab.bluecross.ca/providers-pharmacy-home.php)

