

Alberta Outreach Immunization Program updates

The Alberta Outreach Immunization Program focuses on providing immunization services to those at highest risk of severe outcomes, hospitalization and death due to vaccine-preventable diseases, such as influenza, COVID-19 and invasive pneumococcal disease. Individuals living in senior congregate care settings are more likely to have underlying health conditions and face barriers to accessing immunization services in the community, which increases the risk of poor health outcomes. A comprehensive, coordinated approach to offering immunization services to those living in senior congregate care settings is necessary to reach the goals of the program.

Updates to Alberta Outreach Immunization Program vaccine fees

Effective April 15, 2024, Alberta Health has applied a retroactive fee increase of \$4 per dose for all publicly funded vaccines administered for the **Alberta Outreach Immunization Program** (Outreach program), increasing the fee from \$13 to \$17 per dose. The \$4 increase will be applied only to pharmacies participating in the Alberta Outreach Immunization program to support the travel time and additional resources (such as personnel and equipment) required to provide Outreach vaccinations. Feedback was obtained from several groups, including counsel from the Alberta Pharmacists' Association (RxA).

Alberta Blue Cross® has completed a review of the Alberta Outreach Immunization Program claims that were administered to residents during the period of April 15 to June 30, 2024, and will be applying the fee increase adjustment. Pharmacies participating in the spring Outreach program should anticipate retroactive payment to appear on their August 29 payment.

Ongoing work between Alberta Health, RxA and Alberta Blue Cross will enable the incorporation of Outreach program vaccine fee increase into the claim system commencing fall 2024. Outreach program injections provided after June 30 and before the fall commencing date will be captured in the next retroactive reconciliation to ensure proper compensation for all Outreach services.

continued next page

continued from previous page

Retroactive claims adjustment for the Alberta Outreach Immunization Program

The payment details of these adjustments for Outreach program claims will appear on the reconciliation report dated August 20, 2024, along with other APS claims within this pay period. An electronic funds transfer deposit will be made for payment for these adjustments on August 29, 2024. The drug quantity on the reconciliation report reflects the number of claims that the additional \$4 was applied to, and the drug cost reflects the total amount paid for these adjustments.

An example of how these payments will appear on the reconciliation report is provided below:

		FOR: PHARMACY NAME ADDRESS		ACCOUNT: 06 APS PHARMACY NUMBER: AB00000000 CHEQUE DATE: 20240820 PAGE NUMBER: 2											
RECONCILIATION REPORT FOR PAID APS CLAIMS															
BATCH NO.	PHN NUMBER	NAME SUR 1ST	SERVICE DATE	RX NUMBER	PRODUCT NUMBER	SSC	DRUG QTY.	DRUG COST	DRUG COST ADJUST.	UPCHRG ADJUST.	FEE	FEE ADJUST	SSF ADJUST	GROSS PAYABLE	NET PAID
20240815	VFA000000	VAC FEE	20240815	00000001	999045 000		10.0	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	40.00

The reconciliation reports are accessible to pharmacy providers on the Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Provider website at <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-secure-online-site.php>.

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://www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php)

