

Adjudication updates for medications eligible under the national pharmacare program in Prince Edward Island

Effective September 1, 2025, Alberta Blue Cross® is enhancing the adjudication system for drug claims in Prince Edward Island to ensure that eligible medications under the national pharmacare program in Prince Edward Island are paid first by the pharmacare program, with the private group benefits plan being second payor (if applicable).

To that ensure members residing in Prince Edward Island do not face unexpected out-of-pocket costs and maintain access to medications, drugs eligible for pharmacare coverage will be adjudicated as follows:

- If a claim for an eligible medication is submitted to a member's Alberta Blue Cross plan first, the claim will be rejected with the response code **HD - PATIENT MAY QUALIFY FOR GOV'T PROGRAM**, indicating that the claim needs to be submitted to the pharmacare plan first.
- Generic drugs eligible under the pharmacare program will not be covered by the private group plan for members eligible for pharmacare coverage.
- For eligible brand-name medications, pharmacare will pay up to the lowest cost alternative generic price and the remaining amount will be paid according to the private group plan design.
- When pharmacare covers only the biosimilar insulin and not the innovator product, our private plans will align accordingly.
- Select drugs may require prior approval through Exception Drug Status or Special Authorization programs under pharmacare. Letters will be sent informing these plan members to work with their physicians to apply for Exception Drug Status or Special Authorization where required.
 - Private plan coverage will be provided for 6 months to allow time for members to apply for authorization through pharmacare.
 - After 6 months, these plan members will be required to access these medications through pharmacare first.

Intervention code

When a claim submitted to Alberta Blue Cross rejects with the response code **HD - PATIENT MAY QUALIFY FOR GOV'T PROGRAM** and your patient is not eligible for coverage (as defined in the table below), the existing CPhA intervention code **DA - SECONDARY CLAIM - ORIGINAL TO PROV PLAN** and a previous paid amount of \$0.00 may be submitted to Alberta Blue Cross for adjudication.

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Alberta Blue Cross response code and message	Scenario	DA intervention code appropriate?
HD - PATIENT MAY QUALIFY FOR GOVERNMENT PROGRAM	Patient is ineligible for pharmacare, e.g. patient is a resident of a different province and travelling or temporarily in Prince Edward Island.	Yes
	Claim is rejected for reason of early dispensing under pharmacare and the pharmacare plan will not pay for the claim.	Yes
	Product requires special authorization under pharmacare and the special authorization request has been denied.	Yes
	Product requires special authorization under pharmacare and the member has not yet applied and/or received a response to their special authorization request.	No
	Claim is rejected for reason of incorrect demographic information under pharmacare, i.e., incorrect name, date of birth, etc.	No
	Product claimed is an innovator insulin product and pharmacare only covers the biosimilar product.	No

Use of this intervention code must be documented on the prescription record or patient file. This documentation should include the adjudication date and a summary of the communication with the provincial plan carrier, or the response code received from the provincial carrier supporting the use of the intervention code. Documentation may be requested for compliance verification and must be kept on the patient's file for 2 years.

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

