

# Pharmacy Benefact

A BULLETIN FOR PHARMACY SERVICE PROVIDERS FROM ALBERTA BLUE CROSS

Number 574 • January 2016

## Generic pricing changes introduced for most private plans

To help plan sponsors further enhance their savings through the use of generic drugs, Alberta Blue Cross is enhancing its generic drug adjudication process for most **private plans** effective February 1, 2016. Government plans are not affected by this change.

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)*. However, a number of brand name drugs are losing patent protection, and their generics are entering the market without being listed on the provincial formularies. 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 our 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**.

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### When you have questions:

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)

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