

Pharmacy Benefact

A BULLETIN FOR PHARMACY SERVICE PROVIDERS FROM ALBERTA BLUE CROSS

Number 585 • February 2016

Maintenance Medication Program (MMP)

Alberta Blue Cross strives to provide exceptional value to our plan sponsors and plan members through delivery of drug plan management programs on their behalf. Promoting dispensing of a longer days' supply of maintenance drug products is cost effective and helps ensure plan viability. Alberta Blue Cross is enhancing our current maintenance drug edit effective March 1, 2016, for **select** Alberta Blue Cross employer-sponsored group and individual plans. A number of remaining employer sponsored groups will transition to this enhancement throughout the year. The Maintenance Medication Program (MMP) will not apply to Government sponsored drug plans.

The MMP is an automated process that promotes the dispensing of a maintenance supply of 90 to 100 days for maintenance medications. Plan members are provided with a stabilization period for new medications by allowing a member to incur three claims for the same maintenance medication. After the stabilization period, if the member does not fill the maintenance medication for a 90 to 100 days' supply, the dispensing fee will no longer be covered through their benefit plan and they will have to pay the dispensing fee out of pocket.

MMP editing effective March 1, 2016

Beginning March 1, when submitting a real-time claim submission for a medication that is part of the MMP, the Alberta Blue Cross Pride RT real-time claim adjudication system will read the plan member's claim history. If a medication qualifies for MMP but the plan member's plan is not yet enforcing the maintenance supply, the claim will adjudicate and the following response code of "KX – patient eligible for maintenance supply" will be returned. Once the plan member's claim history identifies three claims for the same drug product, you will receive the response code of "87 – Exceeds max # of prof fees for this drug" for days' supply less than 90 days and the plan member will be responsible for paying the dispensing fee.

Drug products within the following drug classes may be considered maintenance drugs:

Antihypertensive agents	Antidiabetic agents	Antiasthmatics/COPD
Antidepressants	Contraceptives	Hormone replacement therapy
Antilipidemic agents	Thyroid agents	Medications for overactive bladder

Our clinical pharmacists have reviewed each drug in these categories to ensure that we have not included any drugs which are not generally dispensed in a maintenance supply. Where a product within the class is not considered maintenance, these products are excluded from the MMP. Some examples of excluded products are tricyclic antidepressants, salbutamol inhalers and emergency contraceptives.

Some of our plans will allow for intervention codes to be used in specific scenarios. However, some of our major employer-sponsored group plans have chosen to not allow for the use of intervention codes. At the time of adjudication when an intervention code is submitted but not accepted by our system, you will receive the appropriate messaging as noted above.

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Intervention codes

Scenario	CPhA Code allowed
Temporarily required to accommodate a dosage change	NI = dosage change
Temporarily required in select cases where there is less than 90 days remaining on the balance of a prescription and <ul style="list-style-type: none">the prescription was previously filled for 90 to 100 days' supply,a new prescription cannot be obtained, andThe prescription is not appropriate for pharmacist adaptation to a 90-day supply.	NF = override - quantity appropriate
Concerns due to overdose or abuse risk with the specific patient having a maintenance days' supply on hand.	CO = potential overuse/abuse

Alberta Blue Cross may request documentation to substantiate the use of intervention codes through compliance verification.

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)

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 <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php>

