

ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan— January 1, 2017 plan changes

Enhanced special authorization process, TARP and maintenance medication dispensing fee maximums

On **January 1, 2017**, the Alberta Retiree Teachers' Association (ARTA) Retiree Benefits Plan, administered by the Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan (ASEBP), will be introducing the following changes to their drug benefit plan:

- enhanced special authorization process changes for specific health conditions;
- Therapeutic Alternative Reference Pricing (TARP); and
- maintenance medications and dispensing fee maximums.

Enhanced special authorization process

Effective **January 1, 2017**, the ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan will commence administration of the enhanced special authorization process for new and renewal requests for the five health conditions listed below. Alberta Blue Cross will no longer be involved in assessing special authorization requests for these conditions:

- chronic hepatitis C,
- Crohn's disease/colitis,
- multiple sclerosis,
- psoriasis, and
- rheumatoid arthritis.

Prescribers will be notified of this change in process and advised to direct enhanced special authorization requests for these health conditions directly to the ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan. Prescribers will be able to obtain Enhanced Special Authorization Request forms directly from the ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan on the ARTA website at <http://www.arta.net/retiree-benefits/benefits-forms-documents/>. Prescribers and members requiring a status of their enhanced special authorization requests for these health conditions are to contact the ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan.

There will be no change to the special authorization process for conditions outside of those listed above. Special authorization requests for conditions outside of those listed will continue to be sent to and assessed by Alberta Blue Cross.

Prior approval must be granted by the ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan or Alberta Blue Cross to ensure coverage for special authorization products.

Therapeutic Alternative Reference Pricing (TARP)

TARP groups drugs together that treat the same illness or medical condition and encourages cost-effective prescribing for common medical conditions. As such, TARP drugs are eligible for coverage (within the limits of the ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan) and the non-TARP drugs are eligible for partial coverage up to the maximum drug cost based on the cost of the reference drug within the TARP categories.

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TARP will be applied on January 1, 2017 to three therapeutic categories aligning with ASEBP:

1. Anti-hypertensives (single and combinations)
2. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatories
3. Triptans

On February 1, 2017, the following therapeutic category will be added aligning with Coverage for Seniors:

1. Proton pump inhibitors
 - In addition to the products covered under the Alberta Drug Benefit List, the ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan also includes coverage for Dexilant and Nexium:

Medication	Strength	Reference product	Strength
Dexilant® - dexlansoprazole	30 mg	rabeprazole sodium	10 mg
Dexilant® - dexlansoprazole	60 mg	pantoprazole magnesium	40 mg
Nexium® - esomeprazole	20 mg	rabeprazole sodium	10 mg
Nexium® - esomeprazole	40 mg	pantoprazole magnesium	40 mg

Claims reduced to the referenced drug amount or the eligible amount under the TARP category will receive the response code of **E9 – Reduced to reference-based price.**

Prescribers may continue to prescribe and/or plan members may continue to choose any brand name or generic variety of the TARP; however, effective January 1, 2017, the ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan will only pay up to the TARP price and the plan member will be responsible for paying the difference.

Pricing authorizations may be eligible for patients with exceptional circumstances such as allergy, previously failed treatment/toleration to referenced products, etc. Plan members may choose to have their prescriber complete a Special Authorization form requesting a pricing authorization to Alberta Blue Cross. Note that pricing authorizations for medications impacted by TARP must be renewed annually. Please use the Government of Alberta's pricing authorization form for all special authorization requests for the PPI category beginning February 1, 2017.

To assist with claim submissions, specific details regarding the TARP reference products are located on the Alberta Blue Cross pharmacy provider website at www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-resources.php.

Maintenance medications and dispensing fee maximums

The ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan maintenance medication program will limit the number of dispensing fees eligible for maintenance medications to five dispensing fees per calendar year (January 1 – December 31), per maintenance medication, per plan member. This change is designed to encourage more efficient dispensing for ARTA plan members receiving medications for chronic health conditions.

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

Anti-hypertensive agents	Anti-diabetic agents	Anti-asthmatics/COPD
Anti-depressants	Contraceptives	Hormone replacement therapy
Anti-lipidemic agents	Thyroid agents	Medications for overactive bladder

When submitting a real-time claim submission for a medication that is part of the maintenance list and is eligible for maintenance, a response code of **KX- "patient eligible for maintenance supply"** will be returned. Once the plan member's claim history identifies the fifth dispensed claim for the maintenance product, you will receive the response code of **87- "exceeds max # of professional fees for this drug."**

After the fifth dispense, the eligible dispensing fee will no longer be covered by the plan and the plan member will be responsible for paying the difference.

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For the following specific scenarios, use of intervention codes, defined below, are eligible:

Scenario	CPhA intervention code allowed
Temporarily required in select cases where there are 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
Long Term Care compliance packaging required	MY – long term care Rx split for compliance

For more information, you can find a list of maintenance categories and active ingredients available on the Alberta Blue Cross pharmacy provider website at www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-resources.php.

Be advised that Alberta Blue Cross is the contracted administrator for ASEBP, and that your provincial Blue Cross plan will **not** be able to assist you or your patient with inquiries.

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>



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