

Pharmacy Benefact

A BULLETIN FOR PHARMACY SERVICE PROVIDERS FROM ALBERTA BLUE CROSS

Number 788 • January 2019

Update to Insulin Pump Therapy (IPT) program

Alberta Health has updated their policy pertaining to the Insulin Pump Therapy (IPT) program effective January 15, 2019.

Background

The IPT program currently provides funding for the cost of insulin pumps and pump supplies for Alberta residents with Type 1 Diabetes who are assessed by Alberta Health Services and meet eligibility and clinical criteria. Alberta Blue Cross administers the IPT program on behalf of Alberta Health. The Existing stream, which allowed for Albertans who received a pump outside of the IPT program to access supplies only after being assessed by a physician or nurse practitioner, will no longer be available as of January 15, 2019. Current Existing IPT plan members will still receive coverage for supplies until their original term date but will need to receive a complete assessment from one of the Alberta Health Services diabetes clinics to ensure they receive continued coverage for supplies and a new pump.

What's changing

Effective January 15, 2019, all patients who wish to enroll in the IPT program will be required to undergo a complete clinical assessment from an Alberta Health Services diabetes clinic to be eligible for a pump and supplies. This change will increase patient safety, ensuring all patients are fit to receive an insulin pump and are fully trained in the pump's use. A letter outlining these changes has been sent by Alberta Blue Cross to all current IPT program plan members.

Patients with Type 3c diabetes will now be eligible for the program.

Additional resources are available on the Alberta Health website at <http://www.health.alberta.ca/services/insulin-pump-therapy-program.html> or refer to Benefact Number 560 found on the Alberta Blue Cross Provider Resource site at <https://ab.bluecross.ca/pdfs/pharmacy-benefacts/pharmacy-benefact-560.pdf> for claiming information.

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 ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php



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