

# Pharmacy Benefact

A BULLETIN FOR PHARMACY SERVICE PROVIDERS FROM ALBERTA BLUE CROSS

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## First quarter update on the Holdback Policy

The Alberta government, the Alberta Pharmacists' Association and Alberta Blue Cross continue working collaboratively to monitor pharmacy compensation expenditures and trends.

As previously communicated in Benefact 789, for the fiscal year April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020, the Holdback Policy was established at zero per cent and will be held at zero per cent throughout the fiscal year unless budget targets are not met.

With the completion of the first fiscal quarter (April 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019), expenditures for both Pool 1 - Dispensing and Distribution Fees and Pool 2 - Pharmacy Services Fees were within budget targets and the Holdback percentage will remain at 0% at this time.

On April 1, 2020 the Holdback will be eliminated and replaced with a jointly agreed upon mechanism to ensure pharmacy compensation growth is within government's projected budget.

### 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](http://ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php)



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