

# Pharmacy Benefact

A BULLETIN FOR PHARMACY SERVICE PROVIDERS FROM ALBERTA BLUE CROSS

Number 835 • January 2020

## Alberta Health's Coverage for Seniors Program— eligibility changes effective March 1, 2020

Alberta Health is changing the eligibility criteria for the Coverage for Seniors program. Effective March 1, 2020, family members younger than 65 years of age—including spouses and dependants—will no longer be covered by Coverage for Seniors. Albertans 65 years of age and older will continue to be covered by the program.

Changing the plan will help ensure the Government of Alberta can continue providing drug coverage to Alberta's seniors and will help to keep Alberta's health system sustainable.

If patients have further questions, they can direct

- general inquiries to the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) Office, by phoning 780-427-1432 (toll free in Alberta by first dialing 310-0000), and
- questions regarding other coverage options to Alberta Blue Cross at 1-800-661-6995 (toll free).

Attached is the letter that has been mailed to those family members that may be impacted by the upcoming change.

### 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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January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

[name]  
[address]

## Re: Changes to the Coverage for Seniors Program

Dear [name]:

You are receiving this letter because you are registered as a dependant of an Alberta senior who is enrolled in the Coverage for Seniors program. We wish to inform you of an upcoming change to Alberta's Coverage for Seniors program.

To ensure the government can continue to provide this program to our province's seniors and to keep Alberta's health system sustainable, the Government is changing the eligibility criteria for the program. Effective March 1, 2020, seniors' family members (such as spouses and dependants) who are younger than 65 will no longer be eligible to receive benefits through the Coverage for Seniors program.

If you or your dependant(s) require ongoing health benefits coverage on March 1, 2020, you may consider seeking private coverage, for example through your employer or a private insurer.

Alternatively, the Government of Alberta has drug and health benefit programs available to ensure that all Albertans have access to economical health benefits. For more information about these benefits, please visit the Alberta Health website at [www.alberta.ca/drug-coverage-health-benefits.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/drug-coverage-health-benefits.aspx) or the AISH website at [www.alberta.ca/aish.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/aish.aspx).

One of the government-sponsored health benefit plan options is the Non-Group Coverage program, administered by Alberta Blue Cross. Enrollees in the program must pay monthly premiums and copayments on prescriptions. To receive health benefit coverage through the Non-Group Coverage program starting on March 1, 2020, we must receive the enclosed form as soon as possible. You can choose to apply at a later date but you will be required to wait the standard wait period (up to four months) before your coverage becomes effective.

If you have further questions, you can contact us by dialing 780-427-1432 in the Edmonton area. From the rest of Alberta, dial toll-free 310-0000, then 780-427-1432.  
Sincerely,

Health Insurance Programs

Enclosures:

- Non-Group Coverage fact sheet
- Non-Group Coverage application form