

# Pharmacy Benefact

A BULLETIN FOR PHARMACY SERVICE PROVIDERS FROM ALBERTA BLUE CROSS

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## Alberta Health's Coverage for Seniors program— income-based deductibles to be introduced in 2020

As outlined in the Government of Alberta's Budget 2020, released on February 27, 2020, the Government of Alberta will introduce income-based deductibles under the Coverage for Seniors program later this year. A deductible is the amount paid out of pocket before the plan starts paying its share of the claims.

Albertans 65 years of age and older will remain eligible for the Coverage for Seniors program, regardless of their income. Seniors with higher incomes will be asked to pay a deductible based on income. Low-income seniors will not pay a deductible.

Those seniors who are exempt from a deductible will continue to pay the usual 30 per cent co-payment, to a maximum of \$25, per prescription. For seniors who must pay a deductible, the usual co-payment (30 per cent, to a maximum of \$25, per prescription) will apply after they have paid their deductible.

The Government of Alberta is committed to maintaining this important drug coverage for seniors, but the program is becoming unsustainable. These program changes will help to maintain benefits now and for generations to come. Introducing an income-based deductible on prescription drugs ensures the Government of Alberta can deliver on that promise.

Further information will be announced in the coming months.

If patients have further questions, they can contact

### Alberta Supports Contact Centre

1-877-644-9992

(7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Friday)

### 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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