

Enhanced access to Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT)

Effective April 1, 2020, the Government of Alberta will enhance access to Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) through the establishment of an OAT Gap Coverage Program that will provide Albertans who currently do not have supplementary health benefits coverage with no-cost coverage for 120 days of buprenorphine/naloxone or methadone.

Program participation and benefit eligibility

To be eligible for the Alberta OAT Gap Coverage Program at no cost to the individual, patients must

- not have other supplementary health benefits,
- be registered with the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan and have a valid Personal Health Number (PHN); pseudo PHNs are not eligible under this program, and
- have a valid prescription for buprenorphine/naloxone or methadone.

The program will provide 120 days of the prescribed therapy. Participants in the program are expected to enroll in a supplementary health program for continuing coverage of their OAT needs. Information on how to enroll in government-sponsored supplementary health benefit programs is publicly available on the Alberta Health website: www.alberta.ca/drug-coverage-health-benefits.aspx.

Eligible products

The following products are eligible under this program effective April 1, 2020.

DIN	Product Description
00002247374	Metadol-D 1 mg/ml Oral Solution
00002244290	Metadol-D Concentrate 10 mg/ml Oral Liquid
00002394596	Methadose 10 mg/ml Oral Solution
00002394618	Methadose Sugar Free 10 mg/ml Oral Solution
00002453908	Act Buprenorphine/Naloxone 2 mg/0.5 mg Sublingual Tablet
00002424851	pms-Buprenorphine/Naloxone 2 mg/0.5 mg Sublingual Tablet
00002295695	Suboxone 2 mg/0.5 mg Sublingual Tablet
00002453916	Act Buprenorphine/Naloxone 8 mg/2 mg Sublingual Tablet
00002424878	pms-Buprenorphine/Naloxone 8 mg/2 mg Sublingual Tablet
00002295709	Suboxone 8 mg/2 mg Sublingual Tablet
00002481979	Methadone Hydrochloride 10 mg/ml Oral Liquid

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Claim processes

For the OAT Gap Coverage Program, pharmacies that participate in the Alberta Blue Cross Pharmaceutical Services Provider Agreement (ABCPSPA) are able to direct bill eligible claims under the Alberta Public Health Activities Program (APHAP) program. Claims will adjudicate according to the pricing outlined in the ABCPSPA, which includes the Allowable Upcharge #1 (three per cent), the Allowable Upcharge #2 (seven per cent) and the Dispensing Fee of \$12.15.

The program provides for direct bill claims submission only. Patients who receive a prescription through the OAT Gap Coverage Program are not eligible to claim for reimbursement.

When billing claims for the eligible product, Alberta Blue Cross requires that the claims be submitted electronically through the Alberta Blue Cross PRIDE-RT direct bill claim adjudication system with the following claim data elements:

- Carrier Code 16 (as the third-party plan);
- Group number for all transactions must be 23464, Section 000;
- Pharmacy license number;
- Pharmacist identification number;
- Client number: client's member's Personal Health Number (PHN) as the client number;
- Client's full name: last and first name;
- Client's date of birth;
- Client's gender;
- Relationship code: should your software require you to enter a relationship code, zero (0) must be used as the default;
- Prescriber ID number;
- Prescriber ID reference code;
- Service Date;
- DIN of the dispensed product;
- Quantity; and
- Days Supply.

For Albertans already enrolled in government-sponsored supplementary benefits plans, pharmacies can continue to submit claims in the standard manner.

All claims submitted to Alberta Blue Cross for payment are subject to Compliance Verification Reviews and Alberta Blue Cross retains the right to recover payments when appropriate.

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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