

## Alberta Biosimilars Initiative Update

There has been a change to the Special Authorization process for Rituxan. Coverage for Rituxan will continue until January 15, 2021 for patients who have completed a previous two-dose course of therapy with Rituxan.

For rituximab naïve patients, all new Special Authorization requests for the treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis will be assessed for coverage with Truxima. Rituxan will not be approved for new rituximab starts for patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis.

Additionally, patients will not be permitted to switch between rituximab products, if the patient has been previously trialed on any rituximab product and deemed unresponsive to therapy.

## Year-end update on the Holdback Policy

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

For the fiscal year April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020, the Holdback policy was established at zero per cent, and as budget targets were met it remained at zero per cent throughout the fiscal year.

On April 1, 2020, the Holdback policy was eliminated and replaced with the Authorized Adjustment (AA) policy. The AA policy will only be activated in the future if required to achieve the budget targets.

The AA policy includes provision for a consultative process with pharmacists, through an established engagement between Alberta Health and RxA, to propose recommendations or other measures as may be needed to achieve budget targets.

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# Removal of temporary benefit from *Alberta Human Services Drug Benefit Supplement (HSDBS)*

Due to the shortage of The Magic Bullet 10 mg Rectal Suppository (DIN 02241091), manufactured by D & C Mobility Solutions Inc., Bisacodyl 10 mg Rectal Suppository (DIN 02361450), manufactured by Jamp Pharma Corporation was added as a temporary benefit for the *Alberta Human Services Drug Benefit Supplement (HSDBS)*.

D & C Mobility Solutions Inc. has advised Alberta Blue Cross that the shortage of The Magic Bullet 10 mg Rectal Suppository (DIN 02241091) has been resolved.

As a result, Bisacodyl 10 mg Rectal Suppository (DIN 02361450) will no longer be considered a temporary benefit for the ADBL after **July 10, 2020**.

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## 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)

