

## Propylthiouracil shortage update—importation of Australian-labelled PTU™ 50 mg tablet due to the ongoing shortage of propylthiouracil

Due to the discontinuation of Paladin Labs Inc., propylthiouracil 50 mg tablets in Canada, Health Canada has allowed the importation of Phebra Canada's Australian-labelled PTU™ (propylthiouracil) 50 mg tablet.

**Please note: a temporary Product Identification Number has been assigned to PTU™ 50 mg tablet (PIN: 09858122)**

Australian-labelled PTU™ 50 mg tablets, manufactured by Phebra Canada, contain the same amount of active ingredient as the Canadian-labelled propylthiouracil 50 mg tablets that were authorized and marketed for sale in Canada. Health professionals are advised that labeling, product dosing, warnings and precautions for the Australian-labelled PTU™ differs from Canadian-labelled propylthiouracil. Pharmacists and other health care professionals are advised to follow Canadian dosing recommendations when using, prescribing or dispensing the Australian-labelled PTU™. For further product information on the Australian-labelled product, please visit the manufacturer's website (links below).

Pharmacists and other health care professionals are reminded

- the Australian PTU™ product is labelled in English only; however, English and French versions of the label, Product Information, Consumer Medicine Information and Letter of Introduction for the Australian PTU™ product are available on Phebra Canada's website at the following links:
  - English  
<https://www.phebra.com/product/ptu-50-mg-tablets-propylthiouracil/>
  - French  
<https://www.phebra.com/product/comprimes-de-ptu-50-mg/>
- to consult the Canadian Product Monograph for prescribing information for propylthiouracil on Health Canada's Product Monograph at [https://pdf.hres.ca/dpd\\_pm/00055894.PDF](https://pdf.hres.ca/dpd_pm/00055894.PDF).
- due to limited supply, propylthiouracil is listed on the Alberta Blue Cross Critical Drug Supply List, and therefore, is recommended to be dispensed for no more than 30 days at a time. **It is also suggested that supply is conserved for patients in their first trimester or those intolerant/allergic to alternate therapy (i.e. methimazole).**
- as supply is limited for the short term, an inventory management program has been put in place. If you have urgent requirements, please contact your McKesson customer service representative to discuss allocation.

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## Temporary Benefit added to the *Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL)*

Due to the discontinuation of Propyl-Thyracil 50 mg Tablet (DIN 00010200), manufactured by Paladin Labs Inc., PTU™ 50 mg tablet (Temporary PIN: 09858122) will be considered as a temporary benefit for the *Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL)*.

As of July 15, 2020, all claims for the following product will be adjudicated to the price of \$0.3900 per tablet.

Alberta Blue Cross will continue to monitor the availability of the shorted products and potential alternatives, in addition to working with other provinces and territories, manufacturers, and Health Canada to address this shortage and minimize the impact on Albertans.

This product is subject to the usual review process by the Expert Committee on Drug Evaluation and Therapeutics and must be approved by the Minister of Health to remain as a benefit.

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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 Benefits 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)

