

Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL) update now available online

Please be advised that the **January 15, 2021** Updates to the *Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL)* regarding the Alberta Biosimilars Initiative has been posted online at ab.bluecross.ca/dbl/publications.php.

Please refer to the January 15, 2021, updates for products with changes to criteria for coverage and delisted products.

Please note that the online Interactive Drug Benefit List (iDBL) at www.ab.bluecross.ca/dbl/idbl_main1.php is a near real-time application, and as such, contains the most up-to-date information.

Temporary change to step therapy for Direct-Acting Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs) on the Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL) effective May 15, 2020, for government-sponsored programs

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Alberta Health is making a temporary change to step therapy for Direct-Acting Oral Anticoagulants (DOAC) for the treatment of patients who are at-risk with non-valvular atrial fibrillation or have experienced a deep vein thrombosis (DVT)/pulmonary embolus (PE).

Effective immediately, these products are eligible for all patients with these indications where anticoagulation with

warfarin is not possible due to inability to regularly monitor via International Normalized Ratio (INR) testing while social distancing measures are in place. This change affects the following products:

- **Apixaban** (e.g. Eliquis).
- **Dabigatran** (e.g. Pradaxa).
- **Edoxaban** (e.g. Lixiana).
- **Rivaroxaban** (e.g. Xarelto).

Claims processes

If a claim for these products is rejected for one of the above listed indications, pharmacists can use their professional judgement to determine if monitoring via INR testing is possible in light of social distancing measures. If INR testing is not possible, the pharmacist is responsible to document this on the patients record and re-submit the claim with the following intervention code:

- **NB = valid claim - validation on file**

Please note: This temporary change is being granted for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic only and will not be reflected on the *ADBL*.

All other criteria as defined for these products on the *ADBL* still apply. At such time that regular INR testing capacity returns to normal levels, this code will be deactivated and requests for coverage of DOAC drugs will revert to the previous special authorization requirements.

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

