

Palliative care support expanded—pre-filled syringes

Effective June 1, 2021, pre-filled syringes are added to the palliative benefits under the government-sponsored drug plans. This benefit includes disposable syringes and related supplies as well as the service of prefilling the syringe with an injectable prescription drug.

This benefit is eligible for those who have palliative coverage. This may be provided under Palliative Coverage group 20514 or may be added to Coverage for Seniors group 66 or Non-Group Coverage group 1 if an Albertan already had coverage under those plans prior to becoming palliative.

For patients to be eligible for palliative coverage, an application for the Palliative Coverage program must be completed and signed by both the patient (or guardian) and the physician. For more information visit

www.alberta.ca/palliative-care-health-benefits.aspx.

Eligible drug benefits to be used in pre-filled syringes

All injectable drugs listed on the Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL) and the Palliative Care Drug Benefit Supplement (PCDBS) are eligible. To submit a claim for pre-filled syringes you must document the product dispensed and verify that the product is eligible on the ADBL or PCDBS.

Note: the drug product used in pre-filled syringes cannot be claimed as a compound unless there is a mixture of drug products involved. The drug product used in pre-filled syringes containing a single product must be claimed using the DIN of the drug product.

Claims process for pre-filled syringes

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

PIN	Product	Unit of issue	Cost per unit in the dispensing fee field
00000980002	Pre-filled syringe for Palliative	Syringe	\$2.00

Enhancing palliative care in Alberta is a government priority. Effective March 1, 2020, prescription drug co-payments were eliminated for Albertans receiving their medications through the Palliative Coverage program.

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Quarterly update regarding the Authorized Adjustment

The Alberta government, the Alberta Pharmacists' Association and Alberta Blue Cross continue working collaboratively to monitor pharmacy compensation expenditures and trends for drug benefit fees and pharmacy services.

As previously communicated in Benefact 865, a provision exists to enable an Authorized Adjustment mechanism, through a consultative process, should expenditures trend towards exceeding established budget targets.

With the completion of the fourth fiscal quarter (January 1 to March 31, 2021), expenditures remain within budget targets, and as a result, there was no need to initiate consultations on the Authorized Adjustment.

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

