PHARMACY **BENEFACT**

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A BULLETIN FOR PHARMACY SERVICE PROVIDERS FROM ALBERTA BLUE CROSS®

Enoxaparin added to the Alberta Biosimilar Initiative

On December 12, 2019, the Alberta government introduced the Alberta Biosimilar Initiative (refer to Benefact 826 from December 2019.) This communication is to inform you that as of July 1, 2021, two new **enoxaparin** biosimilar drugs, Inclunox and Redesca, will be listed on the *Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL)* and will be subject to the Alberta Biosimilar Initiative.

Switching to a biosimilar

Effective July 1, 2021, adult patients currently taking the originator drug product, Lovenox, are required to switch to a biosimilar version by January 10, 2022, to maintain coverage for this molecule through their Alberta government-sponsored drug plan. Lovenox will not be eligible for coverage for new **enoxaparin** starts. All new patient starts for enoxaparin will be covered for the biosimilar.

Exceptions

Please note, if one of these exceptions apply to your patients, they will continue to be eligible for Lovenox.

- Pregnant patients: a Biosimilar Initiative Exception Request form must be submitted. Requests for Lovenox may be submitted by pharmacists with additional prescribing authorization. Alberta Blue Cross will only consider approval based on pregnancy and approval will be granted until six months past the delivery due date. Those that are trying to conceive will not be approved.
- Pediatric patients: existing Lovenox pediatric patients (under the age of 18 years) are exempt from switching. No application is required.
- Those who have been approved for a biologic exception due to a medical reason. If there is a medical reason why a patient cannot switch to the biosimilar, the prescriber can submit a request for exceptional coverage to Alberta Blue Cross. Requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

For the most current coverage status and criteria, please visit the Interactive Drug Benefit List at **idbl.ab.bluecross. ca/idbl/load.do** and search the drug name. Please visit **Alberta Health** online at **alberta.ca/biosimilar-drugs.aspx** for a current list of biologics, their biosimilar equivalents and specific indications affected by this policy. As a reminder, supporting materials for patients and health-care providers regarding the Alberta Biosimilar Initiative are available on the Alberta Blue Cross website at **ab.bluecross.ca/pdfs/Biosimilars-Resources-for-Patients.pdf**.

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Pneumovax-23 change from vials to pre-filled syringes

Pneumovax-23, manufactured by Merck Canada Inc. is now available as a pre-filled syringe DIN 02436442 which is replacing the vial format. The prefilled syringes are eligible to be submitted under the Alberta Public Health Activities Program (ABPHAP) using **PIN 05666671**.

Eligible product is available through your pharmacy wholesale distributor and is distinguished from vaccine used for private coverage through listing at no charge to the pharmacy.

The fee for the Assessment for the Administration of a Publicly Funded Vaccine includes routine doses of Pneumococcal polysaccharide 23 (Pneumococcal-P 23) vaccine to eligible Albertans 65 years of age and older.

As a reminder, publicly-funded vaccines cannot have a dispensing fee claimed; however, the charge of up to $15 per injectable vaccination service for the Assessment for the Administration of a Publicly Funded Vaccine is eligible. For more information see Benefact 771.

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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