

## Changes to coverage for diabetes supplies for Alberta Government-sponsored programs

Effective August 1, 2021, the Alberta government is changing the funding for diabetes supplies covered for patients on Alberta government-sponsored drug programs to align more closely with Diabetes Canada recommendations.

For Coverage for Seniors (Group 66), Non-Group Coverage (Group 1) and Palliative Coverage (Group 20514), patients with diabetes who are currently and regularly using insulin are eligible to receive coverage for diabetes supplies up to a maximum of \$600 per patient each benefit year. Effective August 1, 2021, plan members may be eligible for coverage up to \$2,400 each benefit year for eligible diabetes supplies purchased from a licensed pharmacy based on their method of diabetes management. Eligible diabetes supplies include needles, syringes, lancets, blood glucose, blood ketone and urine testing strips. There is no co-pay for these products until the yearly maximum for an eligible individual has been reached.

For low-income health benefits plans, coverage for Blood Glucose Test Strips (BGTS) will change from a regular benefit to restricted benefit. Effective August 1, 2021, patients may receive coverage for up to 3,000 blood glucose test strips per benefit year based on their method of diabetes management.

The coverage maximum eligible will be based on the patient's method of diabetes management, as outlined in the table below.

Method of diabetes management	Coverage maximum for Group 1, 66 and 20514 for diabetes supply per benefit year	Quantity maximum for low income plans for BGTS per benefit year
Treated with insulin	\$2,400	3,000
Treated with diabetes medications with high risk of hypoglycemia	\$320	400
Treated with diabetes medications with low risk of hypoglycemia	\$160	200
Treated via diet and/or exercise	\$160	200

Confirmation that the patient is currently and regularly being treated with diabetes medications will be required for coverage. Alberta Blue Cross will review 12 months of the patient's prescription claims history to validate that there has been a claim paid for diabetes medications.

For the complete list of eligible products for government-sponsored drug plan, please refer to the online iDBL available at [www.ab.bluecross.ca/dbl/idbl\\_main1.php](http://www.ab.bluecross.ca/dbl/idbl_main1.php). This is a near real-time application and as such, contains the most up-to-date information for eligible products for government-sponsored drug programs.

### Blood ketone test strips

Effective August 1, 2021, blood ketone test strips will be added to the Alberta Drug Benefit List. Claims should be submitted under PIN 00990072.

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# PHARMACY BENEFACT

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## Updated PINs for blood glucose test strips

Effective August 1, 2021, the following eligible brands of blood glucose test strips will be added to the *Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL)*. For each brand listed, a specific Product Identification Number (PIN) will be assigned. Pharmacies will need to use the appropriate PIN assigned to the specific brand of blood glucose test strip dispensed.

PIN	Product description	Unit of issue	Aug 2021 base price
00000444986	ACCU-CHEK AVIVA BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS	STRIP	0.7125
00000444985	ACCU-CHEK COMPACT BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS	STRIP	0.7125
00000444984	ACCU-CHEK GUIDE BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS	STRIP	0.6813
00000444983	ACCU-CHEK MOBILE BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS	STRIP	0.7125
00000444992	CARESENS N MULTI BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS	STRIP	0.5000
00000444989	CONTOUR BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS	STRIP	0.6989
00000444990	CONTOUR NEXT BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS	STRIP	0.6989
00000444996	FIRST CANADIAN HEALTH SPIRIT BG TEST STRIPS	STRIP	0.5000
00000444987	FREESTYLE LITE BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS	STRIP	0.6900
00000444988	FREESTYLE PRECISION BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS	STRIP	0.6890
00000444982	GE200 BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS	STRIP	0.5100
00000444995	MEDISURE BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS	STRIP	0.6800
00000444994	ONE TOUCH ULTRA BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS	STRIP	0.6943
00000444993	ONE TOUCH VERIO BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS	STRIP	0.6943
00000444998	RAPID RESPONSE GLUCO-MD BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS	STRIP	0.7000

Effective August 1, 2021, the payment eligibility will be the cost of the product (*Manufacturer List Price [MLP] or Base Price*) and Allowable Upcharge #1 plus a 10 per cent markup (Allowable Upcharge #2) and no additional charges.

Allowable Upcharge #2 must be modified to reflect a 10 per cent markup of the aggregate of the MLP or Base Price and Allowable Upcharge #1 for claims for any blood glucose test strips.

All Alberta Blue Cross employer-sponsored group, individual health plan drug programs and Alberta government-sponsored drug programs will utilize the updated PINs and pricing for blood glucose test strips effective August 1, 2021.

Any claims made which exceed these parameters will be rejected. Should a dispensing fee be claimed, it will be rejected with the response code of **OL – Max allowable dispensing fee exceeded**. If the Cost Upcharge exceeds the allowable 10 per cent markup, the claim will be rejected with the response code of **SE - Max allowable upcharge exceeded**.

## Removal of miscellaneous blood glucose test strips (PIN 00999955)

The Alberta government-sponsored drug programs previously covered all blood glucose test strips under a general pseudo identification number (PIN 00999955). Following the listing of the products listed above, the general pseudo identification number (PIN 00999955) currently used by pharmacies to submit claims for blood glucose test strips will be removed from the *ADBL*. A transition period will apply and, as of September 1, 2021, claims will no longer be paid under PIN 00999955 for **Alberta government-sponsored drug programs**.

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)      1-800-361-9632 (toll free)  
403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)      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)

