

Alberta Blue Cross group – Prescription Alternate-Funded (PAF) drugs

Effective September 1, 2021, claims for PAF drugs will require use of an intervention code for select Alberta Blue Cross employer-sponsored group plans.

PAF drugs are drug products that are funded through government mandated programs or agencies for all Albertans who meet the specified criteria and conditions. These include drugs covered through Alberta Specialized High Cost Drug Program and Alberta Outpatient Cancer Drug Benefit Program, for treatment of conditions such as cancer, HIV infection and pulmonary hypertension. Private plan coverage is only supplemental to government coverage.

For select Alberta Blue Cross employer-sponsored group plans, these claims are currently paid with a CPhA response code of "WC - other program coverage may be available".

Effective September 1, 2021, the claims will reject with a CPhA response code, "WC - other program coverage may be available". This enhancement ensures, where appropriate, private plan coverage is supplemental to government coverage. Existing members currently receiving these benefits will not be affected.

Intervention codes for prescription alternate-funded drugs		Explanation
DY	Not eligible for provincial plan	Drug or medical use is not funded through the government mandated program. For example, a new cancer drug is not funded through the Alberta Outpatient Cancer Drug Benefit Program*. Or where the drug has both alternate-funded and non-alternate-funded Health Canada indications, and the indication for use is not alternate-funded (such as Rituxan for Rheumatoid Arthritis).
DW	Applied to provincial plan and rejected	Plan member may not qualify for the funding due to various reasons such as diagnosis or other parameters required by the coverage criteria.

*<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/programs/ps-1025651-drug-benefit-list.pdf>

Pharmacists should use their professional judgement and document on the member's patient record the rationale for using the intervention code. For example, you may use the patient's medical history and communication with or documentation received from the prescriber or patient.

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

