

Alberta government-sponsored drug programs

As previously communicated on Benefact 970 – July 2021, effective September 1, 2021, claims will no longer be paid under blood glucose test strips (PIN 00999955) for Alberta government-sponsored drug programs.

Effective September 1, 2021, Alberta government-sponsored drug programs will only pay for brand products listed on the *Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL)*. Below is a list of eligible blood glucose test strips and corresponding pseudo identification numbers assigned to each product.

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	0.6986
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

For the complete list of eligible products for government-sponsored drug plans, please refer to the online iDBL available at 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.

As a reminder, effective August 1, 2021, payment eligibility also changed for government-sponsored drug programs from usual and customary retail price to 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.

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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**.

Pharmacies must ensure the product claimed accurately reflects the product dispensed. It is important that accurate claims information is submitted to Alberta Blue Cross.

Alberta Blue Cross individual and employer-sponsored group plans

Previously communicated in Benefact 970, all Alberta Blue Cross individual and employer-sponsored group plans were to follow the product and pricing as outlined for government-sponsored drug programs. **However, at this time there should be no change to coverage for blood glucose test strips PIN 00999955. Pharmacies should continue to submit claims using the miscellaneous blood glucose test strip PIN 00999955 until further notice for Alberta Blue Cross individual and employer-sponsored group plans.**

Claims should be submitted at the usual and customary retail price in the drug cost field. Allowable Upcharge #1, Allowable Upcharge #2 and dispensing fees cannot be charged for these products.

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

