the ADBL report

Issue #142, February 2025

An Official Accompaniment to the Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL) produced by Alberta Blue Cross

The Expert Committee on Drug Evaluation and Therapeutics (ECDET)

In this issue:

Brief Summary of Drug Review Activities

The Expert Committee on Drug Evaluation and Therapeutics met on November 18 & 19, 2024. The Committee reviewed Manufacturer submissions for thirty-two (32) Drug Products for potential listing, or change in listing, on the *ADBL*. The Committee also considered information for a number of supplementary assessments of the coverage status of fifty-nine (59) Drug Products.

In addition to Drug Products reviewed by the Expert Committee, nine (9) Drug Products and Devices underwent Expedited Review for listing on the *ADBL* effective December 1, 2024, and twenty-one (21) Drug Products and Devices underwent Expedited Review for listing on the *ADBL* effective February 1, 2025.

The following are highlights of recent changes to the *ADBL* and other topics of general interest. A complete list of changes, as well as the full *ADBL* may be accessed at https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/dbl/publications.php

Highlights of Products Originally Reviewed by Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC)

The following Drug Products were reviewed by CDA-AMC and the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* effective December 1, 2024:

- **AMVUTTRA* 25 mg/0.5 mL injection syringe** (vutrisiran sodium) (ANT) via Special Authorization (SA)
- **ORLADEYO* 150 mg capsule** (berotralstat hydrochloride) (BCR) via SA
- **SLYND 4 mg oral tablet** (drospirenone) (DUI)
- **QULIPTA* 10 mg, 30 mg & 60 tablets** (atogepant) (ABV) via SA for the indication of chronic migraine

The following Drug Products were reviewed by CDA-AMC and the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* effective February 1, 2025:

- **KOSELUGO* 10 mg & 25 mg capsules** (selumetinib) (APG) via SA

Highlights of Drug Products Added

The following Drug Products wa reviewed by the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* effective December 1, 2024:

- **MEZERA 1 g delayed-release tablet** (mesalazine) (AVP)

The following Drug Products were reviewed by the Expert Committee and added to the *ADBL* effective February 1, 2025:

- **MK 20 A LIBERATION PROLONGEE 20 mEq tablet** (potassium chloride (K+)) (MTR)

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Please refer to the current ADBL for explanations of coverage, including a listing of coverage criteria (where applicable).*

ABC 81171 (02/2025)

- **PRALUENT* 150 mg/mL (300 mg/2 mL) injection pen** (alirocumab) (SAV) via SA

Highlights of Interchangeable (IC) Drug Products Added

Addition of the following Entry IC Drug Product to the *ADBL* has resulted in the creation of a New IC Grouping, effective February 1, 2025:

- **ICATIBANT* 30 mg injection syringe** (icatibant acetate) (JPC) via SA

Highlights of Diabetes Supplies

Effective December 16, 2024, continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) for adult patients (≥18 years of age) were added to the *ADBL*. The following Devices were added to the *ADBL* via Restricted Benefit:

- **FREESTYLE LIBRE 2 SENSOR*** (glucose monitoring sensor) (ABD)
- **FREESTYLE LIBRE 2 READER*** (glucose monitoring receiver) (ABD)
- **DEXCOM G7 SENSOR*** (glucose monitoring sensor) (COM)
- **DEXCOM G7 RECEIVER*** (glucose monitoring receiver) (COM)

The following Devices were added to the *ADBL* via Restricted Benefit/SA effective December 16, 2024:

- **GUARDIAN 4 SENSOR (780G PUMP) *** (glucose monitoring sensor) (MET)
- **GUARDIAN 4 TRANSMITTER (780G PUMP) *** (glucose monitoring transmitter) (MET)

The following Devices criteria were expanded to include adult patients (≥18 years of age) via SA effective December 16, 2024:

- **GUARDIAN LINK TRANSMITTER (670G PUMP)*** (glucose monitoring transmitter) (MET)
- **GUARDIAN LINK TRANSMITTER (770G)*** (glucose monitoring transmitter) (MET)
- **GUARDIAN SENSOR*** (glucose monitoring transmitter sensor) (MET)
- **GUARDIAN CONNECT TRANSMITTER*** (glucose monitoring transmitter) (MET)

The following Devices criteria were expanded to include adult patients (≥18 years of age) via Restricted Benefit effective December 16, 2024:

- **DEXCOM G6 SENSOR*** (glucose monitoring transmitter sensors) (COM)
- **DEXCOM G6 TRANSMITTER*** (glucose monitoring transmitter) (COM)

The following Devices Restricted Benefit criteria were changed to include an administrative preamble, that details patients that chose to use a CGM will continue to be eligible for diabetes supplies up to a maximum of $320 for Alberta Health Programs and 400 test strips for Alberta Human Services Programs, effective December 16, 2024:

- **BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS** (Various brands: ABD, ADC, ARP, BNE, LIF, RDC, SEN, TTC)

The following Devices Restricted Benefit criteria were changed to include an administrative preamble, that details patients that chose to use a CGM will continue to be eligible for diabetes supplies up to a maximum of $320 for Alberta Health Programs and 400 test strips for Alberta Human Services Programs, effective December 16, 2024:

- **BLOOD GLUCOSE TEST STRIPS** (Various brands: ABD, ADC, ARP, BNE, LIF, RDC, SEN, TTC)
- **BLOOD KETONE & URINE KETONE TEST STRIPS**
- **BLOOD LETTING LANCET**
- **INSULIN PEN NEEDLES & SYRINGES**

Coverage Status Changes to Currently Listed Products

The coverage status of the following Drug Products has been changed from SA to Regular Benefit effective February 1, 2025:

- **CELECOXIB 100 mg & 200 mg capsules** (Various brands: AGP, APX, AUR, BGP, BMD, JPC, MAR, MPI, MTR, NRA, PMS, SIV & SNS)

The coverage status of the following Drug Products has been changed from Step Therapy/SA to Regular Benefit effective February 1, 2025:

- **ANORO ELLIPTA 62.5 mcg/25 mcg inhalation powder** (umeclidinium bromide /vilanterol trifenatate) (GSK)
- **DUAKLIR GENUAIR 400 mcg/12 mcg inhalation powder** (aclidinium bromide/ formoterol fumarate dihydrate) (COV)
- **INSPIOLTO RESPIMAT 2.5 mcg/2.5 mcg inhalation solution** (tiotropium bromide monohydrate/ olodaterol hydrochloride) (BOE)
- **ULTIBRO BREEZHALER 110 mcg/50 mcg inhalation capsule** (indacaterol maleate/ glycopyrronium bromide) (NOV)

Special Authorization Criteria Change

The Special Authorization criteria for coverage for the following Drug Products have been revised effective November 5, 2024:

- **TRIKAFTA* 50 mg/25 mg/37.5 mg & 75 mg and 100 mg/50 mg/75 mg & 150 mg tablets and 80 mg/40 mg/60 mg & 59.5 mg and 100 mg/50 mg/75 mg & 75 mg granules** (elexacaftor/tezacaftor/ivacaftor) (ivacaftor) (VER)

Due to the Alberta Biosimilar Initiative, a SA administrative preamble has been added to the following Drug Product, effective November 1, 2024:

- **PROLIA 60 MG/ML INJECTION SYRINGE*** (denosumab) (AMG)

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