

Denosumab added to the Alberta Biosimilar Initiative

On December 12, 2019, the Alberta government introduced the Alberta Biosimilar Initiative (refer to **Benefact 826, December 2019**). This communication is to inform you that, as of **November 1, 2024**, a new **denosumab** biosimilar drug, Jubbonti, will be listed on the *Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL)* and will be subject to the Alberta Biosimilar Initiative.

Switching to a biosimilar

Effective November 1, 2024, adult patients currently taking the originator drug product, Prolia, are required to switch to a biosimilar version by May 1, 2025, to maintain coverage through their Alberta government-sponsored drug plan. Prolia will not be eligible for coverage for new denosumab starts. All new patient starts for denosumab 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 Prolia.

- 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 special authorization criteria, please visit the Interactive Drug Benefit List at <https://idbl.ab.bluecross.ca/idbl/load.do> and search for the drug name. Visit **Alberta Health** online at <https://www.alberta.ca/biosimilar-drugs> 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 <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/pdfs/Biosimilars-Resources-for-Patients.pdf>.

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

