

Reminder: ARTA Retiree Benefits Plans change to coverage for proton pump inhibitors effective February 1, 2017

On **January 1, 2017**, the Alberta Retired Teachers' Association (ARTA) Retiree Benefits Plan, administered by the Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan (ASEBP), introduced Therapeutic Alternative Reference Pricing (TARP). Complete details of these changes are defined in Benefact 662, December 2016.

On **February 1, 2017**, TARP will be applied to coverage for proton pump inhibitors aligning with Coverage for Seniors:

1. Proton pump inhibitors

- In addition to the products covered under the *Alberta Drug Benefit List*, the ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan also includes coverage for Dexilant and Nexium.

Medication	Strength	Reference product	Strength
Dexilant® - dexlansoprazole	30 mg	rabeprazole sodium	10 mg
Dexilant® - dexlansoprazole	60 mg	pantoprazole magnesium	40 mg
Nexium® - esomeprazole	20 mg	rabeprazole sodium	10 mg
Nexium® - esomeprazole	40 mg	pantoprazole magnesium	40 mg

TARP was applied on January 1, 2017, to three therapeutic categories aligning with ASEBP:

1. Anti-hypertensives (single and combinations)
2. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatories
3. Triptans

Therapeutic Alternative Reference Pricing (TARP)

TARP groups drugs together that treat the same illness or medical condition and encourages cost-effective prescribing for common medical conditions. As such, TARP drugs are eligible for coverage (within the limits of the ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan) and the non-TARP drugs are eligible for partial coverage up to the maximum drug cost based on the cost of the reference drug within the TARP categories.

Claims reduced to the referenced drug amount or the eligible amount under the TARP category will receive the response code of:

QR – maximum allowable cost (MAC) paid.

Prescribers may continue to prescribe and/or plan members may continue to choose any brand name or generic variety of the TARP; however, effective January 1, 2017, the ARTA Retiree Benefits Plan will only pay up to the TARP price and the plan member will be responsible for paying the difference.

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Pricing authorizations may be eligible for patients with exceptional circumstances such as allergy, previously failed treatment/toleration to referenced products, etc. Plan members may choose to have their prescriber complete a Special Authorization form requesting a pricing authorization to Alberta Blue Cross. Note that pricing authorizations for medications impacted by TARP must be renewed annually. Please use the Government of Alberta's pricing authorization form for all special authorization requests for the PPI category beginning February 1, 2017.

To assist with claim submissions, specific details regarding the TARP reference products are located on the Alberta Blue Cross pharmacy provider web site at www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-resources.php.

When you have questions:

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 <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php>



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