

Pharmacy Benefact

A BULLETIN FOR PHARMACY SERVICE PROVIDERS FROM ALBERTA BLUE CROSS

Number 845 • March 2020

Updated Ministerial Order now available

The revised version of the Ministerial Order (MO) for the Compensation Plan for Pharmacy Services has been posted online. This MO extends the term for the Compensation Plan for Pharmacy Services to March 31, 2022. Also included are administrative changes related to

- the elimination of the Holdback and replacement with the Authorized Adjustment policy, effective April 1, 2020, as previously communicated in Benefact 789.
- the inclusion of insulin as part of the “Assessment to Adapt a Prescription or Alteration of an Insulin Order”, as previously communicated in Benefact #826.
- added clarity to the “Assessment for Prescribing at Initial Access or Prescribing to Manage Ongoing Therapy”. This follows a clarification made previously in Benefact #733.

A copy of the Ministerial Order can be found at

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/compensation-plan-for-pharmacy-services-ministerial-order>

Third quarter update on the Holdback policy

The Alberta government, the Alberta Pharmacists’ Association (RxA) and Alberta Blue Cross continue working collaboratively to monitor pharmacy compensation expenditures and trends.

As previously communicated in Benefact 789, for the fiscal year April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020, the Holdback policy was established at zero per cent and will be held at zero per cent throughout the fiscal year unless budget targets are not met.

With the completion of the third fiscal quarter (October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019), expenditures for both Pool 1—Dispensing and Distribution Fees and Pool 2—Pharmacy Services Fees were within budget targets and the holdback percentage will remain at zero per cent at this time.

On April 1, 2020, the Holdback policy will be eliminated and replaced with the Authorized Adjustment (AA) policy. **The AA policy will only be activated in the future if required to achieve the budget targets.** The AA policy allows for an established engagement process that Alberta Health and RxA will undertake to propose recommendations or other measures to achieve budget targets.

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 ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php



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