

# **Updates to the Alberta Drug Benefit List**

**Effective June 1, 2021**



Inquiries should be directed to:

**Pharmacy Services**

Alberta Blue Cross  
10009 108 Street NW  
Edmonton AB T5J 3C5

Telephone Number: (780) 498-8370 (Edmonton)  
(403) 294-4041 (Calgary)  
1-800-361-9632 (Toll Free)

FAX Number: (780) 498-8406  
1-877-305-9911 (Toll Free)

**Website:** <https://www.alberta.ca/drug-benefit-list-and-drug-review-process.aspx>

Administered by Alberta Blue Cross  
on behalf of Alberta Health.

The Drug Benefit List (DBL) is a list of drugs for which coverage may be provided to program participants. The DBL is not intended to be, and must not be used as a diagnostic or prescribing tool. Inclusion of a drug on the DBL does not mean or imply that the drug is fit or effective for any specific purpose. Prescribing professionals must always use their professional judgment and should refer to product monographs and any applicable practice guidelines when prescribing drugs. The product monograph contains information that may be required for the safe and effective use of the product.

## Table of Contents

---

Special Authorization.....	1
■ Additional Brand(s) and/or Strength(s) of Drug Product(s) Available by Special Authorization.....	1
Restricted Benefit(s).....	1
■ Additional Brand(s) and/or Strength(s) of Drug Product(s) Available by Restricted Benefit .....	1
Added Product(s) .....	1
Least Cost Alternative (LCA) Price Change(s) .....	2
Product(s) with a Price Change .....	2
Discontinued Listing(s).....	3
Part 2 Drug Additions .....	2-1
Part 3 Special Authorization.....	3-1

## Special Authorization

---

The following drug product(s) will be considered for coverage by Special Authorization for patients covered under Alberta government-sponsored drug programs.

### Additional Brand(s) and/or Strength(s) of Drug Product(s) Available by Special Authorization

<u>Trade Name / Strength / Form</u>	<u>Generic Description</u>	<u>DIN</u>	<u>MFR</u>
SANDOZ DEFERASIROX (TYPE J) 90 MG TABLET	DEFERASIROX	00002489899	SDZ
SANDOZ DEFERASIROX (TYPE J) 180 MG TABLET	DEFERASIROX	00002489902	SDZ
SANDOZ DEFERASIROX (TYPE J) 360 MG TABLET	DEFERASIROX	00002489910	SDZ

## Restricted Benefit(s)

---

### Additional Brand(s) and/or Strength(s) of Drug Product(s) Available by Restricted Benefit

<u>Trade Name / Strength / Form</u>	<u>Generic Description</u>	<u>DIN</u>	<u>MFR</u>
AG-CYCLOBENZAPRINE 10 MG TABLET	CYCLOBENZAPRINE HCL	00002485419	AGP

## Added Product(s)

---

<u>Trade Name / Strength / Form</u>	<u>Generic Description</u>	<u>DIN</u>	<u>MFR</u>
AG-PREGABALIN 300 MG CAPSULE	PREGABALIN	00002480778	AGP
APO-FLUTICASONE HFA 250 MCG / DOSE METERED DOSE AEROSOL	FLUTICASONE PROPIONATE	00002510987	APX
JAMP-AMLODIPINE 5 MG TABLET	AMLODIPINE BESYLATE	00002357194	JPC
NRA-TELMISARTAN HCTZ 80 MG / 12.5 MG TABLET	TELMISARTAN/ HYDROCHLOROTHIAZIDE	00002504146	NRA
NRA-TELMISARTAN HCTZ 80 MG / 25 MG TABLET	TELMISARTAN/ HYDROCHLOROTHIAZIDE	00002504138	NRA
NRA-ZOPICLONE 5 MG TABLET	ZOPICLONE	00002477378	NRA
NRA-ZOPICLONE 7.5 MG TABLET	ZOPICLONE	00002477386	NRA
TRI-CIRA 21 0.18 MG / 0.035 MG / 0.215 MG / 0.035 MG / 0.25 MG / 0.035 MG TABLET	NORGESTIMATE/ ETHINYL ESTRADIOL/ NORGESTIMATE/ ETHINYL ESTRADIOL/ NORGESTIMATE/ ETHINYL ESTRADIOL	00002508087	APX

## Least Cost Alternative (LCA) Price Change(s)

The following established IC Grouping(s) are affected and a revised LCA price has been established. Groupings affected by a price decrease, will be effective July 1, 2021. Please review the online [Interactive Drug Benefit List](#) for further information.

<u>Generic Description</u>	<u>Strength / Form</u>	<u>New LCA Price</u>
CARBAMAZEPINE	200 MG ORAL SUSTAINED-RELEASE TABLET	0.2563
CARBAMAZEPINE	400 MG ORAL SUSTAINED-RELEASE TABLET	0.5126
DEFERASIROX	(TYPE J) 90 MG TABLET	2.6303
DEFERASIROX	(TYPE J) 180 MG TABLET	5.2610
DEFERASIROX	(TYPE J) 360 MG TABLET	10.5228
FLUTICASONE PROPIONATE	250 MCG / DOSE METERED DOSE AEROSOL	0.3752
NABILONE	1 MG CAPSULE	3.6669
NORGESTIMATE/ ETHINYL ESTRADIOL/ NORGESTIMATE/ ETHINYL ESTRADIOL/ NORGESTIMATE/ ETHINYL ESTRADIOL	(21 DAY) 0.18 MG / 0.035 MG / 0.215 MG / 0.035 MG / 0.25 MG / 0.035 MG ORAL TABLET	0.6852
TRAVOPROST	0.004% OPHTHALMIC SOLUTION	5.7520

## Product(s) with a Price Change

The following product(s) had a Price Change. The previous higher price will be recognized until June 30, 2021. For products within an established IC Grouping, the LCA price may apply.

<u>Trade Name / Strength / Form</u>	<u>Generic Description</u>	<u>DIN</u>	<u>MFR</u>
APO-TRAVOPROST Z 0.004% OPHTHALMIC SOLUTION	TRAVOPROST	00002415739	APX
FULPHILA (0.6 ML SYRINGE) 6 MG / SYRINGE INJECTION	PEGFILGRASTIM	00002484153	BGP
LAPELGA (0.6 ML SYRINGE) 6 MG / SYRINGE INJECTION	PEGFILGRASTIM	00002474565	APX
NORFLOXACIN 400 MG TABLET	NORFLOXACIN	00002229524	AAP
PLEGRIDY 63 MCG / 94 MCG / SYRINGE INJECTION	PEGINTERFERON BETA-1A	00002444402	BIO
PMS-CARBAMAZEPINE-CR 200 MG SUSTAINED-RELEASE TABLET	CARBAMAZEPINE	00002231543	PMS
PMS-CARBAMAZEPINE-CR 400 MG SUSTAINED-RELEASE TABLET	CARBAMAZEPINE	00002231544	PMS
PMS-NABILONE 1 MG CAPSULE	NABILONE	00002380919	PMS
SANDOZ CARBAMAZEPINE CR 200 MG SUSTAINED-RELEASE TABLET	CARBAMAZEPINE	00002261839	SDZ

## Product(s) with a Price Change, continued

<u>Trade Name / Strength / Form</u>	<u>Generic Description</u>	<u>DIN</u>	<u>MFR</u>
SANDOZ CARBAMAZEPINE CR 400 MG SUSTAINED-RELEASE TABLET	CARBAMAZEPINE	00002261847	SDZ
SANDOZ TRAVOPROST 0.004% OPHTHALMIC SOLUTION	TRAVOPROST	00002413167	SDZ
TEVA-NABILONE 1 MG CAPSULE	NABILONE	00002384892	TEV

## Discontinued Listing(s)

*Notification of discontinuation has been received from the manufacturer(s). The Alberta government-sponsored drug programs previously covered the following drug product(s). Effective June 1, 2021, the listed product(s) will no longer be a benefit and where applicable, will not be considered for coverage by Special Authorization. A transition period will be applied and as of July 1, 2021 claims will no longer pay for these product(s).*

<u>Trade Name / Strength / Form</u>	<u>Generic Description</u>	<u>DIN</u>	<u>MFR</u>
SANDOZ DILTIAZEM CD 120 MG ORAL CONTROLLED-DELIVERY CAPSULE	DILTIAZEM HCL	00002243338	SDZ
SANDOZ DILTIAZEM CD 180 MG ORAL CONTROLLED-DELIVERY CAPSULE	DILTIAZEM HCL	00002243339	SDZ
STATEX 5 MG RECTAL SUPPOSITORY	MORPHINE SULFATE	00000632228	PAL
STATEX 10 MG RECTAL SUPPOSITORY	MORPHINE SULFATE	00000632201	PAL

## **PART 2**

# Drug Additions

ALBERTA DRUG BENEFIT LIST UPDATE

**AMLODIPINE BESYLATE**

5 MG (BASE)	ORAL TABLET			
00002297485	ACT AMLODIPINE	APH	\$	0.1343
00002331284	AMLODIPINE	SNS	\$	0.1343
00002385791	AMLODIPINE	SIV	\$	0.1343
00002429217	AMLODIPINE	JPC	\$	0.1343
00002419564	AMLODIPINE BESYLATE	AHI	\$	0.1343
00002273373	APO-AMLODIPINE	APX	\$	0.1343
00002397072	AURO-AMLODIPINE	AUR	\$	0.1343
00002357194	JAMP-AMLODIPINE	JPC	\$	0.1343
00002371715	MAR-AMLODIPINE	MAR	\$	0.1343
00002362651	MINT-AMLODIPINE	MPI	\$	0.1343
00002272113	MYLAN-AMLODIPINE	MYP	\$	0.1343
00002476460	NRA-AMLODIPINE	NRA	\$	0.1343
00002469030	PHARMA-AMLODIPINE	PMS	\$	0.1343
00002321858	RAN-AMLODIPINE	RAN	\$	0.1343
00002284383	SANDOZ AMLODIPINE	SDZ	\$	0.1343
00002357712	SEPTA-AMLODIPINE	SEP	\$	0.1343
00000878928	NORVASC	UJC	\$	1.4345

**BUSPIRONE HCL**

10 MG	ORAL TABLET			
00002211076	APO-BUSPIRONE	APX	\$	0.2713
00002500213	AURO-BUSPIRONE	AUR	\$	0.2713
00002231492	NOVO-BUSPIRONE	TEV	\$	0.2713
00002230942	PMS-BUSPIRONE	PMS	\$	0.2713

**CARBAMAZEPINE**

200 MG	ORAL SUSTAINED-RELEASE TABLET			
00002231543	PMS-CARBAMAZEPINE-CR	PMS	\$	0.2563
00002261839	SANDOZ CARBAMAZEPINE CR	SDZ	\$	0.2563
00000773611	TEGRETOL CR	NOV	\$	0.4422
400 MG	ORAL SUSTAINED-RELEASE TABLET			
00002231544	PMS-CARBAMAZEPINE-CR	PMS	\$	0.5126
00002261847	SANDOZ CARBAMAZEPINE CR	SDZ	\$	0.5126
00000755583	TEGRETOL CR	NOV	\$	0.8845

**CYCLOBENZAPRINE HCL**

RESTRICTED BENEFIT - Coverage is limited to 126 tablets per plan participant per year as an adjunct to rest and physical therapy for the treatment of acute muscle spasm.

10 MG	ORAL TABLET			
00002485419	AG-CYCLOBENZAPRINE	AGP	\$	0.1022
00002177145	APO-CYCLOBENZAPRINE	APX	\$	0.1022
00002348853	AURO-CYCLOBENZAPRINE	AUR	\$	0.1022
00002287064	CYCLOBENZAPRINE	SNS	\$	0.1022
00002424584	CYCLOBENZAPRINE	SIV	\$	0.1022
00002495422	FLEXERIL	ORI	\$	0.1022
00002357127	JAMP-CYCLOBENZAPRINE	JPC	\$	0.1022
00002212048	PMS-CYCLOBENZAPRINE	PMS	\$	0.1022
00002080052	TEVA-CYCLOBENZAPRINE	TEV	\$	0.1022

**FLUTICASONE PROPIONATE**

250 MCG / DOSE	INHALATION METERED DOSE AEROSOL			
00002510987	APO-FLUTICASONE HFA	APX	\$	0.3752
00002503131	PMS-FLUTICASONE HFA	PMS	\$	0.3752
00002244293	FLOVENT HFA	GSK	\$	0.7494



ALBERTA DRUG BENEFIT LIST UPDATE

**NABILONE**

1 MG ORAL CAPSULE

00002380919	PMS-NABILONE	PMS	\$	3.6669
00002384892	TEVA-NABILONE	TEV	\$	3.6669
00000548375	CESAMET	VCL	\$	6.9739

**NORFLOXACIN**

400 MG ORAL TABLET

00002229524	NORFLOXACIN	AAP	\$	1.8586
-------------	-------------	-----	----	--------

**NORGESTIMATE/ ETHINYL ESTRADIOL/ NORGESTIMATE/  
ETHINYL ESTRADIOL/ NORGESTIMATE/ ETHINYL ESTRADIOL**

0.18 MG \* 0.035 MG \* 0.215 MG \* 0.035 MG \* 0.25 MG \* 0.035 MG ORAL TABLET

00002508087	TRI-CIRA 21	APX	\$	0.6852
00002486296	TRI-JORDYNA (21 DAY)	GLM	\$	0.6852

**PREGABALIN**

300 MG ORAL CAPSULE

00002480778	AG-PREGABALIN	AGP	\$	0.4145
00002394294	APO-PREGABALIN	APX	\$	0.4145
00002436019	JAMP-PREGABALIN	JPC	\$	0.4145
00002494906	NAT-PREGABALIN	NTP	\$	0.4145
00002359642	PMS-PREGABALIN	PMS	\$	0.4145
00002403730	PREGABALIN	SIV	\$	0.4145
00002405598	PREGABALIN	SNS	\$	0.4145
00002392860	RAN-PREGABALIN	RAN	\$	0.4145
00002390868	SANDOZ PREGABALIN	SDZ	\$	0.4145
00002361248	TEVA-PREGABALIN	TEV	\$	0.4145

**TELMISARTAN/ HYDROCHLOROTHIAZIDE**

80 MG \* 12.5 MG ORAL TABLET

00002419114	ACH-TELMISARTAN HCTZ	AHI	\$	0.2098
00002456389	AURO-TELMISARTAN HCTZ	AUR	\$	0.2098
00002389940	JAMP TELMISARTAN-HCT	JPC	\$	0.2098
00002504146	NRA-TELMISARTAN HCTZ	NRA	\$	0.2098
00002393557	SANDOZ TELMISARTAN HCT	SDZ	\$	0.2098
00002390302	TELMISARTAN HCTZ	SIV	\$	0.2098
00002395355	TELMISARTAN/HCTZ	SNS	\$	0.2098
00002330288	TEVA-TELMISARTAN HCTZ	TEV	\$	0.2098
00002244344	MICARDIS PLUS	BOE	\$	1.2474

80 MG \* 25 MG ORAL TABLET

00002419122	ACH-TELMISARTAN HCTZ	AHI	\$	0.2098
00002456397	AURO-TELMISARTAN HCTZ	AUR	\$	0.2098
00002389959	JAMP TELMISARTAN-HCT	JPC	\$	0.2098
00002504138	NRA-TELMISARTAN HCTZ	NRA	\$	0.2098
00002393565	SANDOZ TELMISARTAN HCT	SDZ	\$	0.2098
00002390310	TELMISARTAN HCTZ	SIV	\$	0.2098
00002395363	TELMISARTAN/HCTZ	SNS	\$	0.2098
00002379252	TEVA-TELMISARTAN HCTZ	TEV	\$	0.2098
00002318709	MICARDIS PLUS	BOE	\$	1.2474

**TRAVOPROST**

0.004 % OPHTHALMIC SOLUTION

00002415739	APO-TRAVOPROST Z	APX	\$	5.7520
00002413167	SANDOZ TRAVOPROST	SDZ	\$	5.7520
00002318008	TRAVATAN Z	NOV	\$	11.6960

The DBL is not a prescribing or a diagnostic tool. Prescribers should refer to drug monographs and utilize professional judgment.

PRODUCT IS NOT INTERCHANGEABLE

ALBERTA DRUG BENEFIT LIST UPDATE

ZOPICLONE

5 MG ORAL TABLET

00002245077	APO-ZOPICLONE	APX	\$	0.0990
00002406969	JAMP-ZOPICLONE	JPC	\$	0.0990
00002386771	MAR-ZOPICLONE	MAR	\$	0.0990
00002391716	MINT-ZOPICLONE	MPI	\$	0.0990
00002477378	NRA-ZOPICLONE	NRA	\$	0.0990
00002243426	PMS-ZOPICLONE	PMS	\$	0.0990
00002267918	RAN-ZOPICLONE	RAN	\$	0.0990
00002246534	RATIO-ZOPICLONE	TEV	\$	0.0990
00002344122	ZOPICLONE	SNS	\$	0.0990
00002385821	ZOPICLONE	SIV	\$	0.0990
00002216167	IMOVANE	SAV	\$	1.0832

7.5 MG ORAL TABLET

00002218313	APO-ZOPICLONE	APX	\$	0.1250
00002406977	JAMP-ZOPICLONE	JPC	\$	0.1250
00002386798	MAR-ZOPICLONE	MAR	\$	0.1250
00002391724	MINT-ZOPICLONE	MPI	\$	0.1250
00002477386	NRA-ZOPICLONE	NRA	\$	0.1250
00002240606	PMS-ZOPICLONE	PMS	\$	0.1250
00002267926	RAN-ZOPICLONE	RAN	\$	0.1250
00002242481	RATIO-ZOPICLONE	TEV	\$	0.1250
00002008203	SANDOZ ZOPICLONE	SDZ	\$	0.1250
00002282445	ZOPICLONE	SNS	\$	0.1250
00002385848	ZOPICLONE	SIV	\$	0.1250
00001926799	IMOVANE	SAV	\$	1.3677

## **PART 3**

# Special Authorization

ALBERTA DRUG BENEFIT LIST UPDATE  
CRITERIA FOR SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION OF SELECT DRUG PRODUCTS

**DEFERASIROX**

The drug product(s) listed below are eligible for coverage via the step therapy/special authorization process.

FIRST-LINE DRUG PRODUCT(S): DEFEROXAMINE

"For patients who require iron chelation therapy but who have an inadequate response to a sufficient trial (i.e. a minimum of 6 months) of deferoxamine, or for whom deferoxamine is contraindicated.

Contraindications may include one or more of the following: known or suspected sensitivity to deferoxamine, recurrent injection or infusion-site reactions associated with deferoxamine administration (e.g., cellulitis), inability to obtain or maintain vascular access, severe needle phobia, concomitant bleeding disorders, immunocompromised patients with a risk of infection with parenteral administration, or risk of bleeding due to anticoagulation.

According to the product monograph, Jadenu (deferasirox) is contraindicated in high risk myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) patients, any other MDS patient with a life expectancy less than one year and patients with other hematological and nonhematological malignancies who are not expected to benefit from chelation therapy due to the rapid progression of their disease.

Special authorization may be granted for 24 months."

Note: If a claim for the Step therapy drug product is rejected, pharmacists can use their professional judgment to determine the appropriateness of using the intervention code(s) noted below to re-submit a claim. The pharmacist is responsible to document on the patient's record the rationale for using the second-line therapy drug.

UP - First-line therapy ineffective  
UQ - First-line therapy not tolerated

**90 MG ORAL TABLET**

00002485265	APO-DEFERASIROX (TYPE J)	APX	\$	2.6303
00002489899	SANDOZ DEFERASIROX (TYPE J)	SDZ	\$	2.6303
00002507315	TARO-DEFERASIROX (TYPE J)	TAR	\$	2.6303
00002452219	JADENU	NOV	\$	10.5210

ALBERTA DRUG BENEFIT LIST UPDATE  
CRITERIA FOR SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION OF SELECT DRUG PRODUCTS

**DEFERASIROX**

The drug product(s) listed below are eligible for coverage via the step therapy/special authorization process.

FIRST-LINE DRUG PRODUCT(S): DEFEROXAMINE

"For patients who require iron chelation therapy but who have an inadequate response to a sufficient trial (i.e. a minimum of 6 months) of deferoxamine, or for whom deferoxamine is contraindicated.

Contraindications may include one or more of the following: known or suspected sensitivity to deferoxamine, recurrent injection or infusion-site reactions associated with deferoxamine administration (e.g., cellulitis), inability to obtain or maintain vascular access, severe needle phobia, concomitant bleeding disorders, immunocompromised patients with a risk of infection with parenteral administration, or risk of bleeding due to anticoagulation.

According to the product monograph, Jadenu (deferasirox) is contraindicated in high risk myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) patients, any other MDS patient with a life expectancy less than one year and patients with other hematological and nonhematological malignancies who are not expected to benefit from chelation therapy due to the rapid progression of their disease.

Special authorization may be granted for 24 months."

Note: If a claim for the Step therapy drug product is rejected, pharmacists can use their professional judgment to determine the appropriateness of using the intervention code(s) noted below to re-submit a claim. The pharmacist is responsible to document on the patient's record the rationale for using the second-line therapy drug.

UP - First-line therapy ineffective  
UQ - First-line therapy not tolerated

**180 MG ORAL TABLET**

00002485273	APO-DEFERASIROX (TYPE J)	APX	\$	5.2610
00002489902	SANDOZ DEFERASIROX (TYPE J)	SDZ	\$	5.2610
00002507323	TARO-DEFERASIROX (TYPE J)	TAR	\$	5.2610
00002452227	JADENU	NOV	\$	21.0440

**ALBERTA DRUG BENEFIT LIST UPDATE  
CRITERIA FOR SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION OF SELECT DRUG PRODUCTS**

**DEFERASIROX**

The drug product(s) listed below are eligible for coverage via the step therapy/special authorization process.

FIRST-LINE DRUG PRODUCT(S): DEFEROXAMINE

"For patients who require iron chelation therapy but who have an inadequate response to a sufficient trial (i.e. a minimum of 6 months) of deferoxamine, or for whom deferoxamine is contraindicated.

Contraindications may include one or more of the following: known or suspected sensitivity to deferoxamine, recurrent injection or infusion-site reactions associated with deferoxamine administration (e.g., cellulitis), inability to obtain or maintain vascular access, severe needle phobia, concomitant bleeding disorders, immunocompromised patients with a risk of infection with parenteral administration, or risk of bleeding due to anticoagulation.

According to the product monograph, Jadenu (deferasirox) is contraindicated in high risk myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) patients, any other MDS patient with a life expectancy less than one year and patients with other hematological and nonhematological malignancies who are not expected to benefit from chelation therapy due to the rapid progression of their disease.

Special authorization may be granted for 24 months."

Note: If a claim for the Step therapy drug product is rejected, pharmacists can use their professional judgment to determine the appropriateness of using the intervention code(s) noted below to re-submit a claim. The pharmacist is responsible to document on the patient's record the rationale for using the second-line therapy drug.

UP - First-line therapy ineffective  
UQ - First-line therapy not tolerated

**360 MG ORAL TABLET**

00002485281	APO-DEFERASIROX (TYPE J)	APX	\$	10.5228
00002489910	SANDOZ DEFERASIROX (TYPE J)	SDZ	\$	10.5228
00002507331	TARO-DEFERASIROX (TYPE J)	TAR	\$	10.5228
00002452235	JADENU	NOV	\$	42.0910

**PEGFILGRASTIM**

"In patients with non-myeloid malignancies, receiving myelosuppressive anti-neoplastic drugs with curative intent, to decrease the incidence of infection, as manifested by febrile neutropenia."

All requests for pegfilgrastim must be completed using the Filgrastim/Pegfilgrastim/Plerixafor Special Authorization Request Form (ABC 60013).

Please note: Coverage cannot be considered for palliative patients.

**6 MG / SYR INJECTION SYRINGE**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	00002484153	FULPHILA (0.6 ML SYRINGE)	BGP	\$	1375.0000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	00002474565	LAPELGA (0.6 ML SYRINGE)	APX	\$	1375.0000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	00002506238	NYVEPRIA (0.6 ML SYRINGE)	PFI	\$	1375.0000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	00002497395	ZIEXTENZO (0.6 ML SYRINGE)	SDZ	\$	1424.6300

**ALBERTA DRUG BENEFIT LIST UPDATE  
CRITERIA FOR SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION OF SELECT DRUG PRODUCTS**

**PEGINTERFERON BETA-1A/ PEGINTERFERON BETA-1A**

"Special authorization coverage may be provided for the reduction of the frequency and severity of clinical relapses and reduction of the number and volume of active brain lesions, identified on MRI scans, in ambulatory patients with relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis.

**Coverage**

For coverage, this drug must be prescribed by a registered MS Neurologist. A current assessment must be completed by a registered MS Neurologist at every request.

To register to become an MS Neurologist please complete the Registration for MS Neurologist Status Form (ABC 60002).

**Initial Coverage**

- 1) The registered MS Neurologist must confirm a diagnosis of RRMS;
- 2) The patient must have active disease which is defined as at least two relapses\* of MS during the previous two years or in the two years prior to starting an MS disease modifying therapy (DMT).

\*A relapse is defined as the appearance of new symptoms or worsening of old symptoms, lasting at least 48 hours in the absence of fever, not associated with withdrawal from steroids. Onset of clinical relapses must be separated by a period of at least one month. At least one new T2 lesion or definite gadolinium-enhancing T1 MRI lesion (not questionable faint enhancement) obtained at least 90 days after initiation of the DMT and at least 90 days before or after a relapse may substitute for one clinical relapse.

- 3) The patient must be ambulatory with or without aid (The registered MS Neurologist must provide a current updated Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS) score less than or equal to 6.5).

Coverage may be approved for up to 12 months. Patients will be limited to receiving a one-month supply of peg-interferon beta-1a per prescription at their pharmacy for the first 12 months of coverage.

**Continued Coverage**

For continued coverage beyond the initial coverage period, the patient must meet the following criteria:

- 1) The patient must be assessed by a registered MS Neurologist;
- 2) The registered MS Neurologist must confirm a diagnosis of RRMS;
- 3) The registered MS Neurologist must provide a current updated EDSS score. The patient must not have an EDSS score of 7.0 or above sustained for one year or more.

Coverage of this drug may be considered in a patient with a sustained EDSS score of 7.0 or above in exceptional circumstances. For MS DMT coverage to be considered, details of the exceptional circumstance must be provided in a letter from the registered MS Neurologist and accompany the Special Authorization Request Form.

Continued coverage may be approved for up to 12 months. Patients may receive up to 100 days' supply of peg-interferon beta-1a per prescription at their pharmacy.

**Restarting After an Interruption in Therapy Greater Than 12 Months**

In order to be eligible for coverage, after an interruption in therapy greater than 12 months, the patient must meet the following criteria:

- 1) At least one relapse\* per 12 month period; or

ALBERTA DRUG BENEFIT LIST UPDATE  
CRITERIA FOR SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION OF SELECT DRUG PRODUCTS

**PEGINTERFERON BETA-1A/ PEGINTERFERON BETA-1A**

2) At least two relapses\* during the previous 24 month period."

All requests (including renewal requests) for interferon beta-1b must be completed using the Dimethyl Fumarate/Glatiramer Acetate/Interferon Beta-1a/Ocrelizumab/Peginterferon Beta-1a/Teriflunomide for RRMS/Interferon Beta-1b for SPMS or RRMS Special Authorization Request Form (ABC 60001).

**63 MCG / SYR \* 94 MCG / SYR INJECTION SYRINGE**

00002444402 PLEGRIDY

BIO

\$ 899.0730

---