

Addition of Continuous Glucose Monitors to Alberta government-sponsored plans

Effective February 1, 2022, continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) will be added to the *Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL)* as a restricted benefit. Patients on Alberta government-sponsored drug programs will be eligible to receive coverage for CGMs, provided they meet the following criteria:

- are under 18 years of age;
- have been diagnosed with diabetes and require ongoing insulin therapy or insulin pump therapy; and
- have been prescribed a CGM by an endocrinologist or pediatrician.

Confirmation that the patient is currently and regularly being treated with insulin will be required for coverage. Alberta Blue Cross will review the previous 100 days of the patient's prescription claims history to validate that there has been a claim paid for insulin.

For those patients new to an Alberta government-sponsored drug program who meet all other criteria but do not have an insulin claim within the previous 100 days, once the pharmacist has confirmed that the patient is currently and regularly being treated with insulin, the claim may be submitted with the intervention code **MZ – required prior therapy documented**.

Rejection codes

If the coverage criteria for a CGM is not met, the claim may be rejected with the following response codes:

Rejection code	Explanation
CD – patient not entitled to drug claimed	The patient does not meet one or more of the coverage criteria.
C5 – plan maximum exceeded	The patient has exceeded the quantity limit for the benefit year.
D3 – prescriber is not authorized	The prescriber submitted is not an endocrinologist or pediatrician.

Eligible benefits

Eligible Albertans will be able to obtain coverage for CGMs up to a quantity limit for each component, within each benefit year. The quantity limit will reset at the beginning of each benefit year. These limits are based on the manufacturer-recommended quantities for each component.

PIN	Product description	Quantity limit
00097799174	DEXCOM G6 SENSOR	36
00097799173	DEXCOM G6 TRANSMITTER	4
00097799177	GUARDIAN CONNECT TRANSMITTER	1
00097799175	GUARDIAN LINK TRANSMITTER (670G PUMP)	
00097799178	GUARDIAN LINK TRANSMITTER (770G PUMP)	
00097799176	GUARDIAN SENSOR	52

Once the patient has claimed the maximum quantity of a CGM component for the benefit year, any additional claims within the same benefit year will be rejected with the CPhA code **C5 – plan maximum exceeded**.

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The payment eligibility will be the cost of the product—Manufacturer List Price (MLP) or Base Price—and Allowable Upcharge #1 plus a 10 per cent markup (Allowable Upcharge #2) and no additional charges.

Allowable Upcharge #2 must be modified to reflect a 10 per cent markup of the aggregate of the MLP or Base Price and Allowable Upcharge #1 for claims for any CGM.

Any claims that exceed these parameters will be rejected. Should a dispensing fee be claimed, it will be rejected with the response code **OL – maximum allowable dispensing fee exceeded**. If the Upcharge exceeds the allowable 10 per cent markup, the claim will be rejected with the response code **SE – maximum allowable upcharge exceeded**.

For the complete list of eligible products for government-sponsored drug plan, please refer to the online *interactive Drug Benefit List (iDBL)* available at ab.bluecross.ca/dbl/idbl_main1.php. This is a near real-time application and, as such, contains the most up-to-date information for eligible products for government-sponsored drug programs.

Submission of glucose monitoring systems for Alberta Blue Cross employer-sponsored group and individual health plans

Effective February 1, 2022, all Alberta Blue Cross employer-sponsored group and individual health plan drug programs will also utilize the brand-specific Product Identification Numbers (PINs) for CGMs. Pharmacies will need to use the appropriate PIN assigned to the specific brand and CGM component.

PIN	Product description
00097799172	DEXCOM G6 RECEIVER
00097799174	DEXCOM G6 SENSOR
00097799173	DEXCOM G6 TRANSMITTER
00097799177	GUARDIAN CONNECT TRANSMITTER
00097799175	GUARDIAN LINK TRANSMITTER (670G PUMP)
00097799178	GUARDIAN LINK TRANSMITTER (770G PUMP)
00097799176	GUARDIAN SENSOR

Patients who are enrolled under a plan which includes coverage for CGMs will be eligible to receive coverage for CGMs, provided they meet the required coverage criteria.

Payment eligibility

Effective February 1, 2022, the payment eligibility for glucose monitoring systems on all Alberta Blue Cross employer-sponsored group and individual health plan drug programs will be the cost of the product (drug cost) and upcharge. A dispensing fee is not an allowable cost for CGMs. Alberta Blue Cross administers many national employer-sponsored group plans that allow out-of-province pharmacies across Canada to direct bill based upon the pricing structure in the jurisdiction the claim is made. Direct bill claims from pharmacy providers outside of Alberta, exceeding the allowable prices, upcharges or fees will not be rejected but may be reduced to the plan maximums.

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Please note the below intermittent glucose monitoring systems are also subject to this payment eligibility.

PIN	Product description
00097799170	FREESTYLE LIBRE READER
00097799171	FREESTYLE LIBRE SENSOR
00097799074	FREESTYLE LIBRE 2 READER
00097799075	FREESTYLE LIBRE 2 SENSOR

Pharmacies must ensure the product claimed accurately reflects the product dispensed. It is important that accurate claims information is submitted to Alberta Blue Cross.

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

