PHARMACY **BENEFACT**

A BULLETIN FOR PHARMACY SERVICE PROVIDERS FROM ALBERTA BLUE CROSS®

COVID-19 oral antiviral dispensing – update for pharmacy access points

Effective **January 31, 2022**, Paxlovid™ will be available to eligible Albertans. A positive COVID-19 PCR test is required as part of eligibility. Please refer to **ab.bluecross.ca/pdfs/paxlovid-reference-guide.php** for Paxlovid™ product information, clinical criteria and prescribing, and claims processes.

Information about Paxlovid™ will evolve quickly and frequently. Please be sure to reference the most up-to-date materials.

Key messages

- Paxlovid™ will be available to eligible Albertans starting January 31. A positive COVID-19 PCR test is required as part of eligibility.

- Albertans who meet the eligibility criteria can call Health Link at 1-844-343-0971. Health Link staff will ask screening questions and refer Albertans to a health professional to confirm eligibility and arrange next steps for getting the most appropriate COVID-19 treatment for them.

- The product monograph for Paxlovid™ has been posted on the Health Canada website at **covid-vaccine.canada.ca/info/paxlovid-en.html**. Pharmacy teams should review this information as soon as possible.

- Paxlovid™ has many drug interactions and medical contraindications that pharmacists must be aware of. Pharmacists must assess each Paxlovid™ prescription against these drug interactions and medical contraindications.

- Although it is within the scope of practice for pharmacists with additional prescribing authorization to do so, it is strongly advised that pharmacists do not prescribe Paxlovid™. At this time, Paxlovid™ will only be prescribed through the centralized Alberta Health Services (AHS) process that is currently used for sotrovimab patient assessment and prescribing.

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Paxlovid™ supply

The initial allocation from Health Canada of Paxlovid™ for Alberta is approximately 3,200 treatment courses for the month of January. Further shipments are expected monthly with quantities to be finalized.

The first shipment has been received in Alberta and pharmacies acting as access points for Paxlovid™ will receive an initial inventory of five treatment courses from McKesson. When your pharmacy only has two remaining treatment courses on hand, you will be able to order additional treatment courses for delivery.

McKesson will provide communications with additional information regarding the timing of the initial delivery and how to reorder stock as needed.

Paxlovid™ information session

Alberta Health and AHS hosted a joint information session regarding the rollout of Paxlovid™ through community pharmacies on January 27, 2022. A recording of the session is available on the Alberta Blue Cross resources page, under COVID-19 information for pharmacists, at **vimeo.com/671253101/409325d604**.

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**