

## Importation of United States-labelled Prazosin Hydrochloride Capsules due to shortage of Prazosin Hydrochloride Tablets

Due to the critical shortage of Prazosin Hydrochloride tablets in Canada, Health Canada has allowed the temporary importation from the United States of Alembic's United States-labelled **Prazosin Hydrochloride Capsules** with English labels, by SteriMax Inc. This medication has been added to Health Canada's List of Drugs for Exceptional Importation and Sale in Canada.

Temporary Product Identification Numbers have been assigned to the (United States) Prazosin Hydrochloride Capsules effective **October 16, 2023**. **These products will be available for order shortly.**

Health care professionals are advised that aspects of the product labels and packaging of the United States-labelled product may differ from the Canadian marketed Prazosin Hydrochloride products. **Proper selection of the intended product must be verified to avoid confusion with other products and prevent medication errors.**

The United States-labelled product has the **same active ingredient, strengths (1 mg, 2 mg and 5 mg) and route of administration (oral) as the Canadian marketed products.** The United States-labelled product, however, differs in the following ways:

- The **United States-labelled product is available as capsules** while the Canadian marketed products are available as tablets. **The US 1 mg capsule cannot be split into a 0.5 mg starting or titration dose.**
- The United States-labelled capsules have a **different product composition** (non-medicinal ingredients) than the Canadian marketed products.

Information about United States-labelled Prazosin Hydrochloride Capsules, USP for health care professionals is available for reference in the English United States prescribing information at <https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/fda/fdaDrugXsl.cfm?setid=d4af73d1-c97e-4418-9e24-007b10af0bd9&type=display>.

**Health care professionals are advised of the following:**

- **With the exception of dosing recommendations using split tablets, the United States-labelled product can be used in the same manner as the Canadian marketed products. As mentioned above, the United States-labelled capsules cannot be split.**
- **Health care professionals should refer to the Canadian Product Monographs for Prazosin Hydrochloride Tablets (1 mg, 2 mg, and 5 mg) available in English and French on the Health Canada Drug Product Database (<https://health-products.canada.ca/dpd-bdpp/>).** The Canadian Product Monographs in the database contain information on the appropriate use of the product including the indications, contraindications, warnings and precautions, adverse reactions, dosage and administration and storage conditions.

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# PHARMACY BENEFACT

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- Consistent with the dosing instructions in the Canadian Product Monographs for Prazosin Hydrochloride Tablets, **the maximum daily dose should not exceed 20 mg for the United States-labelled product.**
- **When switching from the Canadian marketed products to the United States-labelled product, health care professionals are advised to closely monitor patients for blood pressure and safety events (for example, dizziness, drowsiness and syncope).**
- Health care professionals responsible for dispensing of the United States-labelled products are advised to counsel patients that the United States-labelled product is in a different oral dosage form (such as capsules) but contains the same active ingredient as the Canadian marketed products.

## Temporary benefits added to the *Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL)*

To ensure coverage is provided for this product, for members of eligible government-sponsored drug programs, **United States (US) Prazosin Hydrochloride Capsules** will be considered as temporary benefits for the *Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL)*.

As of **October 16, 2023**, all claims for the following products will be adjudicated to the prices below.

Temporary PIN	Product Description	Price per capsule
09858281	(US) Prazosin Hydrochloride 1 mg Capsule	\$0.2743
09858282	(US) Prazosin Hydrochloride 2 mg Capsule	\$0.3725
09858283	(US) Prazosin Hydrochloride 5 mg Capsule	\$0.5121

Alberta Blue Cross® will continue to monitor the availability of shorted product(s) and potential alternatives, in addition to working with other provinces and territories, manufacturers and Health Canada to address this shortage and minimize the impact on Albertans.

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](http://ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php)

