

Temporary change to Step Therapy for Deferasirox on the Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL) effective March 7, 2024 for government-sponsored drug programs

Due to the unavailability of Desferal 500 mg/vial Injection (01981242), Deferoxamine Mesylate 500 mg/vial Injection (02241600) and Deferoxamine Mesylate 2 g/vial Injection (02247022), Alberta Health is making a temporary change to Step Therapy for Deferasirox for the treatment of patients who require iron chelation therapy.

Effective immediately, these products are eligible for all patients with this indication where treatment with deferoxamine is not possible due to product unavailability.

This change affects the following products:

- Deferasirox dispersible tablets for oral suspension (e.g. Exjade)
- Deferasirox tablets (e.g. Jadenu).

Claims processes

If a claim for these products is rejected for the listed indication, pharmacists can use their professional judgement to determine if first-line treatment is not possible due to unavailability of first-line product(s). The pharmacist is responsible to document this on the patients record and re-submit the claim with the following intervention code:

NB = valid claim - validation on file

Please note: This temporary change is being granted for the duration of the shortage of deferoxamine products only and will not be reflected on the ADBL. All other criteria and pricing as defined for these products on the ADBL still apply. At such time that first-line drug product shortage is resolved, this code will be deactivated and requests for coverage of Deferasirox will revert to the previous Step Therapy requirements.

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

