

Importation of United States-labelled Cholestyramine for Oral Suspension due to shortage of Canadian-labelled cholestyramine resin 4 gram powder for suspension

Due to the shortage of cholestyramine resin 4 g powder for suspension in Canada, Health Canada has allowed the temporary importation of Juno Pharmaceuticals Corporation, **US-labelled (US) Cholestyramine for Oral Powder Packet, USP 4 gram** from the United States.

This medication has been added to Health Canada's List of Drugs for Exceptional Importation and Sale in Canada.

A temporary Product Identification Number (PIN) has been assigned to the (US) Cholestyramine 4 gram Powder Packet (PIN 09858335) effective as of May 14, 2024.

Additional information for pharmacists and other health care providers

- The US-labelled product has the **same** active ingredient, strength, dosage form and route of administration as the Canadian-authorized products; however, the US-labelled product may taste or appear different than the Canadian-authorized products due to differences in non-medicinal ingredients.

	(US) Cholestyramine 4 gram Powder Packet for Oral Suspension
Product description as per the authorized product labelling	Available in 9 gram sachets containing 4 grams of cholestyramine resin in cartons of 60. Pale yellow to yellow coloured powder with an orange flavour.
Non-medicinal ingredients as per the authorized product labelling	Citric acid monohydrate, colloidal silicon dioxide, propylene glycol alginate, sucrose, xanthan gum, orange flavour, D&C yellow No. 10 alum lake, FD&C yellow No. 6 alum lake.
Storage condition as per the authorized product labelling	Store at 25°C (77°F), excursions permitted from 15°C to 30°C (59°F to 86°F).

- The (US) Cholestyramine product is labelled in English only.
- Health care professionals are advised that aspects of the outer labels and packaging of the US-labelled product may differ from marketed cholestyramine products in Canada. **Proper selection of the intended product must be verified to avoid confusion with other products and prevent medication errors.**
- For more information about the (US) Cholestyramine 4 gram Powder for Oral Suspension, please reference the Juno Pharmaceuticals Risk Communication Letter at <https://www.junopharm.ca/>.
- Please note, there is currently limited supply of **Cholestyramine 4 gram Powder for Oral Suspension** available on the Canadian market it is therefore recommended supply be conserved for those indications where alternative options are not appropriate.
- For more information regarding this shortage please reference the **Health Canada Cholestyramine in short supply: Notice.**

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Temporary benefit added to the Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL)

To ensure coverage is provided for this product, for members of eligible government-sponsored drug programs, the **(US) Cholestyramine 4 gram Powder Packet (PIN 09858335)** will be considered as a temporary benefit for the ADBL.

As of **May 14, 2024**, all claims for this product will be adjudicated to the price of **\$0.9000** per sachet.

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.

Reminder for imported temporary benefit (US) Colesevelam 625 mg Tablet (PIN 09858334)

Due to the shortage of colesevelam hydrochloride in Canada, Health Canada has allowed the temporary importation of Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Canada's US-labelled (US) Colesevelam 625 mg Tablet from the United States.

As a reminder, **(US) Colesevelam 625 mg Tablet (PIN 09858334)** was added as a temporary benefit for the ADBL as of **April 10, 2024**. All claims for this product will be adjudicated to the price of **\$0.8896** per tablet.

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

