

Pharmacy Benefact

A BULLETIN FOR PHARMACY SERVICE PROVIDERS FROM ALBERTA BLUE CROSS

Number 656 • December 2016

Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC) pricing for Alberta Blue Cross Individual Products (IP) and employer-sponsored plans

Alberta Blue Cross continues to provide exceptional value to our plan sponsors and plan members through delivery of drug plan management strategies. MAC pricing is one of these strategies. Effective January 1, 2017, Alberta Blue Cross's standard MAC pricing policy is being adopted by some Alberta Blue Cross IP plans and some employer group plans.

The Alberta Blue Cross standard MAC pricing policy will apply to proton pump inhibitors (PPIs). The specific products and MAC price for this policy are not identical to the Alberta Health MAC pricing or ASEBP's Therapeutic Alternative Reference Pricing (TARP).

Specific details regarding the reference product and price for the Alberta Blue Cross standard MAC pricing policy are located on the Alberta Blue Cross pharmacy provider web site at www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-resources.php.

The Alberta Blue Cross MAC pricing will allow plan sponsors, if applicable, to have a three-month transition period. During this time, to assist pharmacy providers with the identification of products/claims that will be subject to MAC pricing, the warning message **WD = "drug subject to MAC pricing"** will be returned at time of adjudication.

Physicians may continue to prescribe and/or plan members may choose to continue using any brand name or generic variety of PPIs. After the transition period, the drug plan will only pay up to the MAC price and the plan member will be responsible for paying the difference. For products within a MAC category, at time of claim, pharmacy providers will receive the response code of **QR = "maximum allowable cost paid"**.

Response code updates for TARP and MAC pricing policies

Effective January 1, 2017, where applicable, if a drug cost claimed is subject to TARP or MAC pricing, pharmacy providers will receive the response code **QR = "maximum allowable cost paid"**.

The use of response code **E9 = "reduced to reference-based price"** will no longer be used in the adjudication of claims subject to TARP and MAC pricing policies.

When you have questions:

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 <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php>



**The Blue Cross symbol and name are registered marks of the Canadian Association of Blue Cross Plans, an association of independent Blue Cross plans. Licensed to ABC Benefits Corporation for use in operating the Alberta Blue Cross Plan. *† Blue Shield is a registered trade-mark of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. ABC 82320.656 2016/12

