

Valsartan recall product supply shortage for Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL)

On July 9, 2018, Health Canada issued an advisory for select valsartan products that have been recalled by the manufacturer. For listings of specific products included in the recall, please refer to the advisory issued by Health Canada, which can be found online at: healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2018/67202a-eng.php.

An increase in demand for the unaffected products has resulted in an overall shortage of supply for generic valsartan products. In response to these evolving circumstances, the Least Cost Alternative (LCA) price policy for the **Valsartan 80 mg, 160 mg, and 320 mg** tablet groupings listed on the ADBL have been suspended effective **July 9, 2018**.

VALSARTAN

80 MG TABLET

00002371529	APO-VALSARTAN	APX	0.2159
00002414228	AURO-VALSARTAN	AUR	0.2159
00002383535	MYLAN-VALSARTAN	MYP	0.2159
00002363100	RAN-VALSARTAN	RAN	0.2159
00002356759	SANDOZ VALSARTAN	SDZ	0.2159
00002356651	TEVA-VALSARTAN	TEV	0.2159
00002384531	VALSARTAN	SIV	0.2159
00002366959	VALSARTAN	SNS	0.2159
00002244781	DIOVAN	NOV	1.2535

160 MG TABLET

00002337509	ACT VALSARTAN	APH	0.2159
00002371537	APO-VALSARTAN	APX	0.2159
00002414236	AURO-VALSARTAN	AUR	0.2159
00002383543	MYLAN-VALSARTAN	MYP	0.2159
00002363119	RAN-VALSARTAN	RAN	0.2159
00002356767	SANDOZ VALSARTAN	SDZ	0.2159
00002356678	TEVA-VALSARTAN	TEV	0.2159
00002384558	VALSARTAN	SIV	0.2159
00002366967	VALSARTAN	SNS	0.2159
00002244782	DIOVAN	NOV	1.2528

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320 MG TABLET

00002371545	APO-VALSARTAN	APX	0.2159
00002414244	AURO-VALSARTAN	AUR	0.2159
00002383551	MYLAN-VALSARTAN	MYP	0.2159
00002356775	SANDOZ VALSARTAN	SDZ	0.2159
00002356686	TEVA-VALSARTAN	TEV	0.2159
00002384566	VALSARTAN	SIV	0.2159
00002366975	VALSARTAN	SNS	0.2159
00002289504	DIOVAN	NOV	1.2071

Although a recalled product is listed on the *ADBL* in the Valsartan/HCTZ 320 mg/25 mg Tablet grouping, sufficient unaffected stock of the other interchangeable LCA products have been confirmed, therefore the LCA price policy will not be suspended for this grouping at this time.

Valsartan temporary benefits added to the Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL)

Due to the unavailability of valsartan 80 mg, 160 mg, and 320 mg Tablet groupings, the below unaffected products will be considered as temporary benefits for the *ADBL*.

We are monitoring inventory levels of valsartan and potential alternatives. In addition, we are working with other provinces and territories, manufacturers, and Health Canada to address this shortage and minimize the impact on Albertans.

DIN	Product Description	Manufacturer
02371510	Apo-Valsartan 40 mg Tablet	Apotex Inc.
02414201	Auro-Valsartan 40 mg Tablet	Auro Pharma Inc.
02270528	Diovan 40 mg Tablet	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.
02383527	Mylan-Valsartan 40 mg Tablet	Mylan Pharmaceuticals ULC
02363062	Ran-Valsartan 40 mg Tablet	Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc
02356643	Teva-Valsartan 40 mg Tablet	Teva Canada Limited

As of **July 9, 2018**, all claims for the above products will be adjudicated to the price published in the most recent *Alberta Blue Cross Drug Price List (ABCDPL)* until further notice. The *ABCDPL* is available online at ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.html.

If this situation continues to be a long-term matter then this product is subject to the usual review process by the Expert Committee on Drug Evaluation and Therapeutics and must be approved by the Minister of Health for addition to the *ADBL* in order to remain as a benefit.

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Early refills for replacement medications

In the event that a member has received the recalled product, and replacement medication is required, a response code of **OU – Refill is X days early** may result.

Due to this extenuating circumstance, to continue to dispense the product to the member, the following existing CPhA intervention codes can be used:

Response code	Response message	Intervention code
OU	OU=refill is X days	UF

As a reminder, use of intervention codes to support a pharmacist's decision to dispense early must be documented and supported by citing the following on the prescription record/patient file:

- Date of early dispense
- Reason for early dispensing
- A summary documenting the communication with the prescriber, caregiver and/or patient for the early dispense request
- Documentation may be requested for compliance verification and must be kept on the patient's file for two years

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 Benefits and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims. Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php



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