

Announcing new enhancements to your Group Benefits Plan!

NEW MEMBER IDENTIFICATION CARD FOR YOUR NEW BENEFITS

Please review the information on the attached card to ensure that it is correct. Your Member ID card is also available online via Apple App or Google Play by searching for “Alberta Blue Cross - My Benefits”. Additional ID cards can be printed from the Alberta Blue Cross Plan Member’s web site. If you need to update your ID card, please contact CCSD Benefits Department in Human Resources.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Increasing from 80% to 100% coverage with Direct Billing by pharmacies to Alberta Blue Cross

VISION CARE

Increasing from \$250 to \$400 every 24 months

More details about the plan changes are described below. Also, informational videos to assist you with these changes are posted at www.ab.bluecross.ca/myplan/#DrugPlanManagement.

INCREASED VISION CARE COVERAGE

Your vision care is increasing from \$250 to \$400 every 24 months for each plan member. Purchases in the last 24 months will be applied against the new maximum.

INCREASED DRUG COVERAGE AND DIRECT BILLING

Your drug coverage will increase from 80 to 100 percent for eligible drug expenses. You also have the convenience of direct billing. Simply present your Member ID card to your pharmacist and they will bill Alberta Blue Cross directly.

ALBERTA BLUE CROSS DRUG FORMULARY

The plan is now subject to a drug formulary, which is a list of drugs covered by the plan. To check if a drug is covered or has any limits or conditions, sign in to the member site at www.ab.bluecross.ca and use the drug look-up tool.

\$9.00 DISPENSING FEE CAP

A dispensing fee is the amount your pharmacy charges to dispense a prescription drug. Dispensing fees vary from pharmacy to pharmacy, so shop around and compare costs. The plan will reimburse up to \$9.00 per prescription fee charged.

GENERIC DRUG PRICING

Generics contain the same active ingredient in the same amount as its brand-name counterparts. The major difference between generic and brand-name drugs is the price. The drug plan will pay up to the cost of the generic drug. If there is a medical reason that you cannot take the generic drug, your physician can request in writing, on the prescription, to not substitute the brand-name drug.

SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION

Specialty drugs are used to treat complex medical conditions and are often prescribed by a specialist such as rheumatologists. If you are starting on a specialty drug, your physician must submit a request for Special Authorization to Alberta Blue Cross. Through this prior approval process, the authorization will remain valid for a defined period.

Please note: If you or a member of your family is on a special authorization drug prior to January 1, 2020, your medication will be grandfathered and will not require prior authorization under the Calgary Catholic School District's plan.

ALBERTA BLUE CROSS "BLUE CARE"

Blue Care is a special service if you received special authorization approval for high-cost drugs. You can take advantage of this service from pharmacists who can answer questions about medications, alternative treatment or receive information about other funding options.

STEP THERAPY

Step Therapy promotes the use the most effective, safe and less expensive drugs (first-line therapy) before moving to more expensive alternatives (second-line therapy). When a prescription claim is entered by the pharmacist, your history is reviewed to determine if the drug claim is eligible. Evidence of the first-line therapy will enable coverage for second-line therapy.

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE COST (MAC)

MAC pricing is an approach that ensures you receive effective and cost-efficient treatment within a specific

class of drugs used to treat common conditions where the drugs are therapeutically similar and equally effective. Your plan has a maximum price that will be paid for the proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) classification of drugs.

The PPI class of medication is used to treat conditions related to high levels of acid in the stomach, such as heartburn, acid reflux and ulcers. Research shows medications in this class are similar to each other in safety and effectiveness.

Your pharmacist will inform you if the PPI you are taking will be reduced to the MAC pricing. If there is a medical reason you are unable to change your prescription, you or your pharmacist can notify your physician to submit a special authorization request.

MAINTENANCE MEDICATION PROGRAM (MMP)

The MMP helps reduce the number of trips to the pharmacy thereby saving you money on dispensing fees by encouraging a three-month supply for maintenance medications. Maintenance medications are those taken on a regular basis and are commonly used for the treatment of chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, cholesterol, depression, asthma and diabetes.

Once stabilized on a maintenance medication, the plan will cover the \$9 dispensing fee for your prescription if the refill is for a three-month supply. If there are unique circumstances where more frequent dispensing is required, please talk to your pharmacist.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions we are here to help. Call Alberta Blue Cross Customer Services at 403 234-9666 or toll free at 1 800 661- 6995 8:30 am – 5:00 pm (MT) Monday to Friday.



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