

Multi-Year Pharmacy Funding Framework update

Daily Dispensing Policy

As previously communicated in [Benefact 1320](#), the Government of Alberta and the Alberta Pharmacists' Association (RxA) have finalized a new multi-year Pharmacy Funding Framework that provides stability through to March 31, 2029. This notice provides additional details regarding introduction of new rules for daily medication dispensing, in advance of implementation on **October 1, 2026**.

This new policy is intended to ensure that daily dispensing fees are paid only for medications that meet the established daily dispensing criteria and comply with the applicable policy requirements and restrictions. The new policy aims to address rising costs associated with growth related to daily dispensing fee claims. This policy applies to all government-sponsored programs administered by Alberta Blue Cross.

What's changing

DAILY DISPENSING FEE LIMIT

- A maximum of **1** daily dispensing fee per patient per day may be claimed.
- Methadone and Buprenorphine/Naloxone are exempt from the daily dispensing fee limit; dispensing fees for these medications are automatically approved for payment, and a Daily Dispensing Authorization Form isn't required.
- A pharmacy should not claim a daily dispensing fee for opioid medications if a daily dispensing fee has already been claimed for Methadone or Buprenorphine/Naloxone for the same patient on the same day.
 - Notwithstanding the limitations on daily dispensing fees, a daily dispensing fee may be payable for an opioid medication prescribed concurrently with opioid agonist therapy (e.g., Methadone or Buprenorphine/Naloxone) only where the concurrent opioid is required as part of a specialized, documented treatment protocol authorized by an approved addiction medicine, Narcotic Transition Service or opioid transition program. Concurrent prescribing alone doesn't qualify for this exception.

MEDICATIONS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A DAILY DISPENSING FEE

Medications not eligible for a daily dispensing fee include any medication identified on the Medication Maintenance List (MML) (<https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/provider/type/pharmacy/resources.php>) as defined in Alberta Blue Cross Reference Guide for Alberta Pharmacies.

Note: Additional medications under the categories identified on the MML will be added to the MML over the next few months. Pharmacists will be advised as changes occur and should check the MML list when dispensing a daily dispensed medication to confirm eligibility.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DAILY DISPENSING FEE AUTHORIZATION

To be eligible for a daily dispensing fee (limited to 1 dispensing fee per patient per day), daily dispensing must be supported by one of the following:

- A prescription from a physician or nurse practitioner that specifically directs the medication to be dispensed daily; OR

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- The following rationale(s) have been documented on a completed Daily Dispensing Authorization Form (<https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/pdfs/daily-dispensing-authorization-form.pdf>) signed by the patient/patient's agent and the pharmacist:
 - Risk of theft/loss
 - Risk of overuse/abuse

The form must be updated every 3 months.

Pharmacists are responsible for maintaining appropriate documentation to support daily dispensing claims and ensuring claims comply with the requirements outlined in this policy.

While the policy will take effect on October 1, 2026, pharmacies will be provided a transition period until November 1, 2026 to establish the necessary internal processes and complete the required Daily Dispensing Authorization Forms in accordance with the new policy requirements.

Additional information, including a comprehensive frequently asked questions (FAQ) document, a reference guide and supporting policy resources, will be made available prior to implementation. A Notice of Changes outlining the corresponding changes to the Alberta Blue Cross Pharmaceutical Services Provider Agreement (ABCPSPA) was issued to pharmacies on September 16, 2026: <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/provider/type/pharmacy/pharmaceutical-services-provider-agreement.php>.

Updates on additional changes under the new Framework will be communicated to pharmacists through Benefacts issued in advance of implementation.

Previous Communications:

- **Pharmacy Benefact 1320 - June 2026**: Special announcement: New multi-year Pharmacy Funding Framework
- **Pharmacy Benefact 1321- June 2026**: Second notice: Pharmacy services billing cap effective June 26, 2026
- **FAQ-for-Pharmacist-CAP.pdf**
- **Pharmacy Benefact 1333 - August 2026**: Multi-year Pharmacy Funding Framework update: Enhanced Care Plan claims reporting requirements
- **FAQ-for-CACP-and-SMMA-PIN.pdf**
- **Pharmacy Benefact 1335 - September 2026**: New Multi-Year Pharmacy Funding Framework: Updates to dispensing fees
- **Pharmacy Benefact 1337 – September 2026**: Multi-Year Pharmacy Funding Framework update: Maintenance Medication Dispensing Policy and introduction of a Maintenance Medication List (MML)
- **Maintenance Medication Dispensing Policy FAQ.pdf**
- **MML List of Drugs.xlsx**

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

