

Multi-year Pharmacy Funding Framework update

Introduction of unit price limits on select topical compound medications

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 the unit price limits on select topical compound medications.

Effective October 1, 2026, Primary and Preventative Health Services (PPHS) is introducing a unit price limit of \$0.55 per gram on topical compound medications containing diclofenac and/or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug(s) (NSAID) for all government-sponsored drug programs.

What's changing

Effective October 1, 2026:

- The unit price for topical compound medications containing diclofenac and/or an NSAID(s) will be capped at \$0.55 per gram (includes ingredient costs and allowable upcharge #1 [AU#1]).
- For in-store made compound products, the maximum reimbursement amount is the lower of the compound's ingredient cost plus AU#1 or the unit price limit.
- For purchased compound products, the maximum reimbursement amount is the lower of the invoice price or the unit price limit.
- Allowable upcharge #2 will continue at 7% to a maximum of \$100.

The dispensing fee maximum for purchased compounds will align with the announced dispensing fee increase communicated in [Benefact 1335](#), and the dispensing fee maximum for compounds made in store will remain as \$18.45.

Compound type	Current pricing	New pricing (October 1, 2026)
In-store compound	Ingredient cost + AU#1 (7.5%) + AU#2 (7% of ingredient cost + AU#1, max \$100) + \$18.45 dispensing fee	Ingredient cost + AU#1 (to a combined max of \$0.55/g) + AU#2 (7% of ingredient cost + AU#1, max \$100) + \$18.45 dispensing fee
Purchased compound	Invoice price + AU#2 (7% of invoice price, max \$100) + \$12.15 dispensing fee	Invoice price (to a max of \$0.55/g) + AU#2 (7% of invoice price, max \$100) + \$12.35 or \$13.50 dispensing fee, based on days supply

continued next page

continued from previous page

Products and claims

- Applies to all topical compound medications containing diclofenac and/or an NSAID(s)
- Applicable Product Identification Numbers (PINs): (subject to future updates)

Product description	PIN
Topical Diclofenac (Made in store)	999102
Topical Diclofenac (Purchased)	999202
Topical NSAID (Made in store)	999105
Topical NSAID (Purchased)	999205

- Multi-ingredient topical compound medications containing diclofenac and/or an NSAID(s) must be submitted under these PINs

Eligibility

The unit price limit on topical compound medications containing diclofenac and/or an NSAID(s) is applied to all government plan members.

Pharmacy requirements

Pharmacy providers must:

- Submit claims in accordance with the unit price limit and product criteria
- Maintain appropriate documentation

Non-compliant claims may be subject to recovery.

Pharmacists should continue to submit claims in accordance with program requirements.

This benefact concludes the changes effective October 1, 2026, under the new Framework. Information regarding future policy changes, including alternative compensation model exploration and pilot initiatives to address health screening and point of care test, acute condition assessments and supports for rural pharmacies, will be shared as work progresses.

A separate Benefact will be issued shortly to provide further clarification on some policies that have already been communicated.

continued next page

continued from previous page

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](#)**
- **[MML List of Drugs.xlsx](#)**
- **Pharmacy Benefact 1339 - September 2026:** Multi-Year Pharmacy Funding Framework: Update to Daily Dispensing Policy

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

