Pharmacy Benefact

Number 1350 | November 2026

A BULLETIN FOR PHARMACY SERVICE PROVIDERS FROM ALBERTA BLUE CROSS®

Multi-year Pharmacy Funding Framework update

This benefact provides further clarification on the application of the Daily Dispensing Policy, the Maintenance Medication Dispensing Policy, the temporary guidance for compound verification of new compound PINs, and the billings for assessment for the administration of a product by injection.

DAILY DISPENSING POLICY CLARIFICATIONS

Additional clarification is being provided regarding the Daily Dispensing Policy outlined in Pharmacy Benefact 1339 - September 2026 and Pharmacy Benefact 1343 - September 2026.

Slow-release oral morphine (SROM)

Effective immediately, Kadian® has been added to the daily dispensing exemption list, consistent with the existing exemptions for methadone and buprenorphine/naloxone. Kadian® is exempt from the daily dispensing fee limit. Dispensing fees for Kadian® will be automatically approved for payment, and the Daily Dispensing Authorization Form is not required.

For clarity, where a patient receives any combination of medications exempted from the daily dispense requirements (Kadian®, methadone and buprenorphine/naloxone) on the same day, reimbursement is limited to one dispensing fee per patient per day; separate daily dispensing fees for each of the exempted medications will not be reimbursed. As outlined in the Daily Dispensing Policy, an additional dispensing fee may be payable for claims dispensed on a daily basis for medications not listed on the MML.

Pharmacies should continue to comply with all other applicable daily dispensing requirements.

MAINTENANCE MEDICATION DISPENSING POLICY CLARIFICATIONS

Additional clarification is being provided regarding the Maintenance Medication Dispensing Policy outlined in Pharmacy Benefact 1337.

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative.

EDMONTON AND AREA: **P** 780.498.8370 | **F** 780.498.8406
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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

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Acute dispensing for maintenance medications

When a medication listed on the Maintenance Medication List (MML) is dispensed for an acute need within a 28-day period, the pharmacist may enter the intervention code UT (treatment of acute condition). This code is required only if the claim is rejected. This code may only be used four times per drug grouping per plan member per floating year.

In addition, the 70% rule provides flexibility when a patient requires a maintenance medication for acute needs while continuing maintenance treatment. Once 70% of the previously dispensed quantity has been used, an early refill may be provided, helping ensure the patient has an adequate supply without requiring frequent short-term dispensing.

TEMPORARY GUIDANCE FOR COMPOUND VERIFICATION OF NEW COMPOUND PINS

The issue affecting compound verification through the online portal for the new compound PINs has been identified and is currently being addressed by Alberta Blue Cross®

In the interim, please continue to follow the compound coverage and adjudication requirements outlined in Pharmacy Benefact 1341 and Pharmacy Benefact 1347.

Further communication will be provided once the issue has been resolved.

REMINDER OF UPCOMING DEADLINES

There have been transition periods established after the October 1, 2026, implementation of the following policies to allow extra time for pharmacies to adapt to the new policies. The transition period end dates for these policies are listed below.

Policy or form	Full policy requirement effective date
Maintenance Medication Frequent Dispensing Form	Form required starting November 1, 2026
Daily Dispense Authorization Form	Form required starting November 1, 2026
Previously ordered/purchased Compounds of Diclofenac and other NSAIDS	Unit Price Cap of $0.55 applied universally starting November 1, 2026

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Previous communications and key resources

- 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
- 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
- Pharmacy Benefact 1339 - September 2026: Multi-year Pharmacy Funding Framework update: Daily Dispensing Policy
- Change to daily dispensing policy FAQ
- Pharmacy Benefact 1341 - September 2026: Multi-Year Pharmacy Funding Framework Update: Introduction of unit price limits on select topical compound medications
- Pharmacy Benefact 1342 - September 2026: Clarification Benefact #1
- Pharmacy Benefact 1343 - September 2026: Clarification Benefact #2
- Pharmacy Benefact 1347 - October 2026: Clarification Benefact #3

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