



Price Comparison of Commonly Prescribed Pharmaceuticals in Alberta 2016



ALBERTA COLLEGE *of*
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

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Physicians have limited knowledge and poor access to information about medication costs and coverage.¹ In Canada, prescription medications are the second most costly component of health care upwards of \$29 billion per year.² These costs largely reflect the treatment of chronic medical conditions predominantly cared for by family physicians,³ including heart disease, high cholesterol, hypertension, diabetes, and depression.²

Drug store prescriptions make up 90% of prescription medication costs.⁴ About 30% of patients do not fill their prescriptions or take less than prescribed, up to 1/3 of the time because of affordability issues.^{5,6} In Alberta, trade name medications account for only 36% of prescriptions filled but account for 77% of prescription drug costs.⁷ On a national level, the top 100 most expensive prescription drugs, of roughly 3,000 available products,⁸ account for almost 45% of total prescription drug spending.⁹

Alberta prescribers' use of generic drugs (64%) is below the Canadian national average of 67%, and well below generic usage in the United States (86%).^{10,11} Generics have been shown to be clinically equivalent to trade name medications.¹² For example, in 38 cardiovascular trials only one found a difference between generic and trade name medications in a patient orientated outcome: trade name furosemide produced more diuresis than generic furosemide.¹²

Many medications within a drug class are therapeutically interchangeable. Newer medications are often derivatives of older products, frequently without proven clinical advantage, but at substantially higher cost. Many of these are not covered under provincial drug plans (see Table 1).

With this in mind, we continue to provide an annual update on the price of commonly prescribed medications in Alberta. We encourage prescribers to consider costs and medication coverage when choosing between therapeutically similar medications.

Other methods of improving costs of medications include combination products and splitting pills. Most combination products are similar in cost to the higher cost individual medication (ex. ACE Inhibitor/diuretic combos) and have been shown to increase adherence.¹³⁻¹⁴

Many medications are the same cost, irrespective of the dose and therefore prescribing a higher dose product and splitting it in half would decrease the drug cost by 50% (e.g. sildenafil).

Finally, we are unable to explain certain cost differences of therapeutically similar products. For example, Fluticasone/Salmeterol (Advair) is substantially more expensive than Budesonide/Formoterol (Symbicort). We again challenge prescribers to consider the relative cost differences between therapeutically interchangeable products.

Costs listed are primarily for the generic product (with generic name bolded) as provincial drug plans will generally only pay for the lowest cost formulation. Brand name prices (with brand name bolded) are for products still under patent protection. We also provide information on coverage by Alberta Blue Cross (BC) and Indian Affairs (IA) formularies and which products require Special Authorization (SA). Medications that are not covered (NC) are paid for entirely by your patients.

The prices, rounded to the nearest \$5, represent the entire retail cost of the prescription filled at a community pharmacy in Alberta, including markups and dispensing fee. This does not reflect what a patient would pay if covered under a drug plan, but rather the cost to an individual without coverage, or cost to the health system. The price reflects the maximum allowable dispensing fee charged under provincial regulations. Some pharmacies may charge less than that, but this tool allows for relative cost comparisons between medications in the same class or for treating the same condition.

This list is not exhaustive and we encourage you to contact your local pharmacist for information on medications not included that you use in your practice. This document is up to date as of January 1, 2016. We hope you find this document useful in your clinical practice.

Please forward any feedback, including cases where knowledge of medication cost or coverage made a difference in your patients or practice to:
tony.nickonchuk@ahs.ca or mkolber@ualberta.ca.

What's New in 2016?

1. In Miscellaneous, we have added topical corticosteroids and head lice therapies
2. New generics since 2015: Moxifloxacin (Avelox), Pantoprazole magnesium (Tecta)

Table 1: Important Price Differences between Generic and Trade Name or Therapeutically Similar Products

Brand	Generic Name	90 Day Cost	Cheaper Alternative	90 Day Cost	90 Day Savings
Pristiq 50mg	Desvenlafaxine	\$280	Venlafaxine 75mg	\$45	\$235
Glumetza 2000mg QD	Metformin Long-Acting	\$245	Metformin 1000mg BID	\$30	\$215
Advair Diskus 250/50	Fluticasone/Salmeterol	\$335	Symbicort 200/6 (Budesonide/Formoterol)	\$150	\$185
Nexium 40mg	Esomeprazole	\$195	Rabeprazole 20mg	\$35	\$160
Vimovo 500/20mg BID	Naproxen/Esomeprazole	\$220	Naproxen 500mg BID Rabeprazole 20mg BID	\$55 + \$60	\$105
Coversyl 4mg	Perindopril	\$95	Ramipril 5mg	\$30	\$65

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
CARDIOVASCULAR					
Lipid Lowering Agents					
Rosuvastatin	Crestor	10mg, 20mg	QD	\$40	BC/IA covered
Atorvastatin	Lipitor	10mg, 20mg	QD	\$50	BC/IA covered
Simvastatin	Zocor	10mg	QD	\$50	BC/IA covered
Atorvastatin	Lipitor	40mg, 80mg	QD	\$55	BC/IA covered
Ezetimibe	Ezetrol	10mg	QD	\$55	SA req'd for BC and IA
Pravastatin	Pravachol	20mg	QD	\$60	BC/IA covered
Beta Blockers					
Atenolol	Tenormin	50mg	QD	\$25	BC/IA covered
Bisoprolol	Monacor	5mg, 10mg	QD	\$25	BC/IA covered
Metoprolol	Lopresor	25mg, 50mg	BID	\$30	BC/IA covered
Metoprolol-SR	Lopresor SR	100mg	QD	\$30	BC/IA covered
Atenolol	Tenormin	100mg	QD	\$35	BC/IA covered
Metoprolol-SR	Lopresor SR	200mg	QD	\$45	BC/IA covered
Calcium Channel Blockers					
Amlodipine	Norvasc	5mg	QD	\$35	BC/IA covered
Amlodipine	Norvasc	10mg	QD	\$50	BC/IA covered
Diltiazem-T	Tiazac	240mg	QD	\$50	BC/IA covered
Nifedipine	Adalat XL	30mg	QD	\$75	BC/IA covered

LEGEND:

BC = Alberta Blue Cross, IA = Indian Affairs, NC = Not covered, SA = special authorization, SR = sustained release, OTC = over the counter, SQ = subcutaneous injection, SS=Social Services

Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors (ACEIs)					
Ramipril	Altace	5mg, 10mg	QD	\$30	BC/IA covered
Lisinopril	Zestril	20mg	QD	\$30	BC/IA covered
Fosinopril	Monopril	10mg	QD	\$35	BC/IA covered
Enalapril	Vasotec	10mg	QD	\$40	BC/IA covered
Ramipril/HCT	Altace/HCT	10mg/25mg	QD	\$40	BC/IA covered
Perindopril	Coversyl	4mg	QD	\$95	BC/IA covered
Perindopril/Indapamide	Coversyl Plus	4mg/1.25mg	QD	\$110	BC/IA covered
Perindopril	Coversyl	8mg	QD	\$130	BC/IA covered
Angiotensin Receptor Blockers (ARBs) (All have HCTZ combo products that are similar in price to the single entity product)					
Losartan	Cozaar	50mg	QD	\$35	BC/IA covered
Candesartan	Atacand	8mg	QD	\$40	BC/IA covered
Irbesartan	Avapro	150mg	QD	\$40	BC/IA covered
Telmisartan	Micardis	80mg	QD	\$40	BC/IA covered
Valsartan	Diovan	80mg, 160mg	QD	\$40	BC/IA covered

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PRICE COMPARISON OF COMMONLY PRESCRIBED PHARMACEUTICALS IN ALBERTA 2016

Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
Diuretics					
Chlorthalidone	Hygroton	50mg	1/4-1/2 QD	\$15	BC/IA covered
Furosemide	Lasix	20mg, 40mg	QD	\$15	BC/IA covered
Hydrochlorothiazide	Hydrodiuril	12.5mg, 25mg	QD	\$15	BC/IA covered
Indapamide	Lozide	2.5mg	QD	\$25	BC/IA covered
Spirolactone	Aldactone	25mg	QD	\$25	BC/IA covered
Spirolactone	Aldactone	100mg	QD	\$40	BC/IA covered
Anti-platelet					
ASA	Aspirin	81mg	QD	\$5	OTC, IA covered but NC BC
Clopidogrel	Plavix	75mg	QD	\$60	SA req'd BC, IA covered
Ticagrelor	Brilinta	90mg	BID	\$310	SA req'd BC, IA covered
Anti-coagulant					
Warfarin	Coumadin	5mg	QD	\$20	BC/IA covered
Rivaroxaban	Xarelto	10mg, 15mg, 20mg	QD	\$295	SA req'd for BC and IA
Apixaban	Eliquis	5mg	BID	\$330	SA req'd for BC and IA
Dabigatran	Pradax	110mg, 150mg	BID	\$330	SA req'd for BC and IA

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
HYPOGLYCEMIC AGENTS					
Biguanides					
Metformin	Glucophage	500mg	2 BID	\$30	BC/IA covered
Metformin SR	Glumetza SR	1000mg	2 QD	\$245	NC by BC or IA
Sulfonylureas					
Glyburide	Diabeta	5mg	BID	\$25	BC/IA covered
Gliclazide, Gliclazide MR	Diamicon/MR	80mg, 30mg MR	BID, 2 QD MR	\$30	BC/IA covered
Meglitinides					
Repaglinide	Gluconorm	1mg	TID	\$45	BC/IA covered
Dipeptidyl Peptidase-4 Inhibitors (DPP-4)					
Linagliptin	Trajenta	5mg	QD	\$265	SA req'd for BC and IA
Saxagliptin	Onglyza	5mg	QD	\$290	SA req'd for BC and IA
Sitagliptin	Januvia	100mg	QD	\$305	SA req'd for BC and IA
SGLT2 Inhibitor					
Canagliflozin	Invokana	100mg	QD	\$270	SA req'd for BC and IA
Glucagon-like Peptide 1 Agonist (GLP-1)					
Liraglutide	Victoza	1.2mg SQ	QD	\$555	NC by BC or IA
Insulin (Prices may vary between pharmacies, relative differences likely consistent. Max allowable price for 1500 Units of penfill insulin)					
Regular insulin	Novolin Toronto/Humulin R	100U/mL	As dir	\$60	BC/IA covered
Long-acting insulin	Novolin NPH/Humulin N	100U/mL	As dir	\$60	BC/IA covered
Rapid-acting insulin	Apidra	100U/mL	As dir	\$65	BC/IA covered
Rapid-acting insulin	Novorapid/Humalog	100U/mL	As dir	\$75	BC/IA covered
Basal insulin (Glargine)	Toujeo	300U/mL	As dir	\$110	NC by BC or IA
Basal insulin (Glargine)	Lantus	100U/mL	As dir	\$115	BC/IA covered
Basal insulin (Detemir)	Levemir	100U/mL	As dir	\$125	BC/IA covered

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
RESPIRATORY					
Puffers differ in their 'doses' (puffs) per device, so comparing costs is difficult. The 90 day cost was calculated by: 1. Determining the total number of doses over 90 days (using the stated dosing frequency), 2. Multiplying by the calculated cost per dose, 3. Adding the dispensing fee and markup. This will not be exactly what patients pay for these products but allows for a more fair comparison between therapies. Brackets next to brand name indicate number of doses per device.					
Bronchodilators/Anti-cholinergics					
Salbutamol	Ventolin (200)	100mcg	4 pfs/d	\$20	BC/IA covered
Ipratropium	Atrovent (200)	200mcg	1 pf qid	\$50	BC/IA covered
Glycopyrronium	Seebri (30)	50mcg	1 pf qd	\$185	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Tiotropium	Spiriva (30)	18mcg	1 pf qd	\$225	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Corticosteroids					
Beclomethasone	Qvar (200)	100mcg	1 pf bid	\$70	BC/IA covered
Budesonide	Pulmicort (200)	200mcg	1 pf bid	\$75	BC/IA covered
Ciclesonide	Alvesco (120)	200mcg	1 pf qd	\$75	BC/IA covered
Fluticasone	Flovent (120)	125mcg	1 pf bid	\$80	BC/IA covered
Fluticasone	Flovent (120)	250mcg	1 pf bid	\$150	BC/IA covered
Long-acting Beta Agonist/Corticosteroid Combinations					
Budesonide/Formoterol	Symbicort (120)	200mcg/6mcg	1 pf bid	\$150	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Fluticasone/Salmeterol	Advair MDI (120)	125mcg/25mcg	1 pf bid	\$175	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Fluticasone/Salmeterol	Advair MDI (120)	250mcg/25mcg	1 pf bid	\$240	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Fluticasone/Salmeterol	Advair Diskus (60)	250mcg/50mcg	1 pf bid	\$335	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Leukotriene Receptor Antagonist					
Montelukast	Singulair	10mg	QD	\$95	SA req'd for BC and IA; BC cov'd if 6-18 years old
Nasal Corticosteroids					
Beclomethasone	Beconase (200)	50mcg	4 pfs/d	\$35	BC/IA covered
Mometasone	Nasonex (140)	50mcg	2 pfs/d	\$45	NC BC, IA covered; BC cov'd if 3-12 years old
Fluticasone Propionate	Flonase (120)	50mcg	2 pfs/d	\$50	NC BC, IA covered

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
SMOKING CESSATION					
Cost quoted for 12 weeks of stated dosing frequency.					
Bupropion	Wellbutrin SR	150mg	BID	\$60	BC/IA covered
Nortriptyline	Aventyl	25mg	3 HS	\$165	BC/IA covered
Bupropion	Zyban	150mg	BID	\$200	BC/IA covered
Varenicline	Champix	Recommended titration*		\$335	IA covered; BC cov'd for 12 wks, SA if longer
*0.5mg qd x 3 days, 0.5mg bid x 4 days, 1mg bid thereafter					
Nicotine Replacement Therapy					
Nicotine Gum	Nicorette	2mg	12 pcs/d	\$210	OTC, IA covered, BC only SS; lifetime \$ limit
Nicotine Patch	Nicoderm	Recommended dose**			
**21mg x 8 wks, 14mg x 2 wks, 7 mg x 2 wks (patch daily)					
Nicotine Gum	Nicorette	4mg Cartridges	12 pcs/d	\$255	OTC, IA covered, BC only SS; lifetime \$ limit
Nicotine Inhaler	Nicorette	Cartridges	6 ctgs/d	\$410	OTC, IA covered, BC only SS; lifetime \$ limit

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
GASTROINTESTINAL					
Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs)					
Rabeprazole	Pariet	20mg	QD	\$35	BC/IA covered
Pantoprazole	Pantoloc/Tecta	40mg	QD	\$50	BC/IA covered
Omeprazole	Losec	20mg	QD	\$55	BC/IA covered
Lansoprazole	Prevacid	30mg	QD	\$60	BC/IA covered
Esomeprazole	Nexium	40mg	QD	\$195	NC by BC or IA
Dexlansoprazole	Dexilant	30mg	QD	\$230	NC by BC or IA
Histamine-2 Receptor Antagonists (H2RAs)					
Ranitidine	Zantac	150mg	BID	\$50	OTC, but BC/IA covered
Helicobacter Pylori Eradication					
Amoxicillin	Amoxil	1g	BID x 7d	\$80	As 3 separate generic prescriptions; All 3 covered by BC and IA
Clarithromycin	Biaxin	500mg	BID x 7d		
Lansoprazole	Prevacid	30mg	BID x 7d		
HP-PAC (7 days of prepacked medications listed above)			BID x 7d	\$105	BC/IA covered
Antiemetics (Cost for 30 tablets)					
Dimenhydrinate	Gravol	50mg	PRN	\$5	OTC, IA covered, BC only SS
Metoclopramide	Maxeran	10mg	PRN	\$15	BC/IA covered
Doxylamine/Pyridoxine	Diclectin	10mg/10mg	PRN	\$55	BC/IA covered
Ondansetron	Zofran	8mg	PRN	\$175	BC/IA covered
Laxatives					
Psyllium Fiber	Metamucil	1 scoop	TID	\$30	OTC, IA covered but NC BC
Lactulose	Lactulose	1 tbsp	QD	\$35	OTC; BC/IA covered
PEG3350	Restoralax	17g	QD	\$60	OTC, IA covered but NC BC

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
PSYCHIATRY					
Anti-Depressants					
<i>Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs)</i>					
Citalopram	Celexa	20mg	QD	\$35	BC/IA covered
Sertraline	Zoloft	50mg	QD	\$50	BC/IA covered
Escitalopram	Cipralext	10mg	QD	\$55	BC/IA covered
Paroxetine	Paxil	20mg	QD	\$55	BC/IA covered
Fluoxetine	Prozac	20mg	QD	\$60	BC/IA covered
<i>Serotonin/Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRIs)</i>					
Venlafaxine	Effexor XR	75mg	QD	\$45	BC/IA covered
Duloxetine	Cymbalta	30mg	QD	\$200	BC/IA covered
Desvenlafaxine	Pristiq	50mg	QD	\$280	NC by BC or IA
<i>Noradrenergic and Specific Serotonergic Antidepressant (NaSSA)</i>					
Mirtazapine	Remeron	30mg	HS	\$30	BC/IA covered
Antipsychotics					
Quetiapine	Seroquel	25mg	HS	\$25	BC/IA covered
Risperidone	Risperdal	1mg	QD	\$40	BC/IA covered
Quetiapine	Seroquel	100mg	HS	\$45	BC/IA covered
Olanzapine	Zyprexa	5mg	QD	\$75	BC/IA covered
Olanzapine	Zyprexa	10mg	QD	\$140	BC/IA covered
Quetiapine	Seroquel XR	300mg	QD	\$165	BC/IA covered
Benzodiazepines (Cost for 90 tablets)					
Lorazepam	Ativan	1mg	PRN	\$15	BC/IA covered
Clonazepam	Rivotril	0.5mg	PRN	\$20	BC/IA covered
Oxazepam	Serax	15mg	PRN	\$20	BC/IA covered

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
CONTRACEPTIVES					
Max allowable price for 12 week supply unless otherwise stated, and 21 or 28 tab products costs are equivalent. All except IUDs contain Ethinyl Estradiol plus the listed progesterone.					
1st Generation Progestins					
Norethindrone	Synphasic		QD	\$50	BC/IA covered
2nd Generation Progestins					
Levonorgestrel	Alesse		QD	\$35	BC/IA covered
Levonorgestrel	Min-Ovral		QD	\$35	BC/IA covered
Levonorgestrel	Triquilar		QD	\$60	BC/IA covered
3rd Generation Progestins					
Desogestrel	Marvelon		QD	\$40	BC/IA covered
Norgestimate	Tri-Cyclen Lo		QD	\$45	BC/IA covered
Norgestimate	Tri-Cyclen		QD	\$85	BC/IA covered
Anti-Androgenic					
Drospirinone	Yasmin*		QD	\$40	BC/IA covered
Drospirinone	YAZ*		QD	\$65	BC/IA covered
*Same chemical constituents. Yasmin is 21 active pills and 7 pill-free days; Yaz is 24 active pills and 4 pill-free days.					
Transdermal/Vaginal Contraceptives					
Etonogestrel	Nuvaring	Vaginal ring	As dir	\$60	NC BC, IA covered
Norelgestromin	Evra	Patch	As dir	\$85	NC BC, IA covered
Intrauterine Devices (IUDs)					
5 Year Copper IUD	Mona Lisa*	IUD	As dir	\$70	NC BC, IA covered for 1 per year
*Provides contraception for up to 5 years. Upfront cost is higher but divided over 5 years, cost is \$3 per 84 days.					
Levonorgestrel	Mirena**	IUD	As dir	\$385	BC/IA covered for 1 per 2 years
**Provides contraception for up to 5 years. Upfront cost is high but divided over 5 years, cost is \$20 per 84 days.					

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY					
Oral					
Medroxyprogesterone	Provera	5mg	QD	\$20	BC/IA covered
Estradiol-17 β	Estrace	1mg	QD	\$35	BC/IA covered
Conjugated Estrogens	Premarin	0.625mg	QD	\$40	BC/IA covered
Micronized Progesterone	Prometrium	100mg	HS	\$125	BC/IA covered
Transdermal					
Estradiol-17β Patch	Estradot/Oesclim	50mcg	Twice weekly	\$85	BC/IA covered
Estradiol-17 β Gel	Estrogel	1.5mg	QD	\$100	BC/IA covered
Vaginal					
Conjugated Estrogens	Premarin Vaginal Cr	0.625mg	QD	\$75	BC/IA covered
Estradiol-17 β Vaginal Tablet	Vagifem-10	10mcg	Twice weekly	\$110	BC/IA covered

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
ANALGESICS					
Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)					
Naproxen	Naproxen	500mg	BID	\$55	BC/IA covered
Diclofenac	Voltaren SR	75mg	BID	\$60	BC/IA covered
Ketorolac	Toradol	10mg	BID	\$115	BC covered, NC by IA
Diclofenac/Misoprostol	Arthrotec	75mg/200mcg	BID	\$135	BC/IA covered
Naproxen/ Esomeprazole	Vimovo	500mg/20mg	BID	\$230	NC by BC or IA
COX2 Inhibitor					
Celecoxib	Celebrex	200mg	QD	\$45	SA req'd for BC and IA
Miscellaneous (Cost for 90 tablets)					
Tramadol/ Acetaminophen	Tramacet	37.5mg/325mg	PRN	\$75	NC by BC or IA
Anti-Migraine (Cost for 6 tablets)					
Rizatriptan	Maxalt	5mg, 10mg	PRN	\$35	SA req'd BC, IA covered with quantity limits
Zolmitriptan	Zomig	2.5mg	PRN	\$45	SA req'd BC, IA covered with quantity limits
Sumatriptan	Imitrex	100mg	PRN	\$65	SA req'd BC, IA covered with quantity limits
Neuropathic or Chronic Pain					
Amitriptyline	Elavil	10mg, 25mg	HS	\$25	BC/IA covered
Amitriptyline	Elavil	50mg	HS	\$35	BC/IA covered
Gabapentin	Neurontin	300mg	TID	\$65	BC/IA covered
Pregabalin	Lyrica	50mg	QD	\$110	SA req'd for IA, NC by BC
Gout					
Allopurinol	Zyloprim	200mg	QD	\$25	BC/IA covered
Colchicine	Colchicine	0.6mg	QD	\$40	BC/IA covered

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
UROLOGY					
Erectile Dysfunction (Cost for 4 tablets; may split tablet for lower dose to save costs)					
Sildenafil	Viagra	50mg, 100mg	As dir	\$50	NC by BC or IA
Vardenafil	Levitra	20mg	As dir	\$75	NC by BC or IA
Tadalafil	Cialis	20mg	As dir	\$80	NC by BC or IA
Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH)					
Tamsulosin CR	Flomax CR	0.4mg	QD	\$25	BC/IA covered
Terazosin	Hytrin	2mg	QD	\$35	BC/IA covered
Dutasteride	Avodart	0.5mg	QD	\$55	SA req'd for BC and IA
Finasteride	Proscar	5mg	QD	\$60	SA req'd for BC and IA

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
MISCELLANEOUS					
Antibiotics					
Doxycycline	Doxycycline	100mg QD x 7 days		\$15	BC/IA covered
Nitrofurantoin	Macrobid	100mg BID x 3 days		\$15	BC/IA covered
Sulfameth/Trimeth	Septra	DS BID x 3 days		\$15	BC/IA covered
Amoxicillin	Amoxil	500mg TID x 7 days		\$20	BC/IA covered
Azithromycin	Zithromax	500mg, 250mg x 4 days		\$20	BC/IA covered
Ciprofloxacin	Cipro	500mg BID x 5 days		\$20	BC/IA covered
Cephalexin	Keflex	500mg QID x 7 days		\$25	BC/IA covered
Levofloxacin	Levaquin	500mg QD x 7 days		\$25	IA covered, special restrictions for BC
Amoxicillin/Clavulanate	Clavulin	500mg TID x 7 days		\$30	BC/IA covered
Clarithromycin	Biaxin	500mg BID x 5 days		\$30	BC/IA covered
Moxifloxacin	Avelox	400mg QD x 7 days		\$60	NC by IA, special restrictions for BC
Osteoporosis					
Calcium Carbonate	Calcium	500mg	TID	\$5	OTC, IA covered but NC BC
Vitamin D	Vitamin D	1000IU	QD	\$5	OTC, IA covered; liquid cov'd on BC up to age 17
Etidronate/Calcium	Didrocal	As directed		\$35	BC/IA covered
Alendronate	Fosamax	70mg once weekly		\$45	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Risedronate	Actonel	35mg once weekly		\$45	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Dementia					
Donepezil	Aricept	5mg	QD	\$90	SA req'd for BC and IA
Galantamine ER	Reminyl ER	16mg	QD	\$135	SA req'd for BC and IA
Rivastigmine	Exelon	3mg	BID	\$140	SA req'd for BC and IA

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
TOPICALS					
Topical Corticosteroids (Price is for a 30g tube of cream; since majority of price is from dispensing fee, large quantities result in small price increases)					
<i>Class I-Ultra High Potency</i>					
Clobetasol 17-propionate	Dermovate	0.05%	As dir	\$20	BC/IA covered
Betamethasone Dipropionate Glycol	Diprolene	0.05%	As dir	\$30	BC/IA covered
<i>Class II/III-High Potency</i>					
Amcinonide	Cyclocort	0.10%	As dir	\$20	BC/IA covered
Betamethasone Dipropionate	Diprosone	0.05%	As dir	\$20	BC/IA covered
<i>Class IV/V-Moderate Potency</i>					
Betamethasone Valerate	Betaderm/Betnovate	0.10%	As dir	\$15	BC/IA covered
Mometasone Furoate	Elocom	0.10%	As dir	\$30	BC/IA covered
<i>Class VI/VII-Low Potency</i>					
Hydrocortisone	Cortate	1.00%	As dir	\$20	BC/IA covered
Desonide	Desonate	0.05%	As dir	\$25	BC/IA covered
Miscellaneous Topicals					
Tacrolimus	Protopic (30g)	0.03%	As dir	\$85	SA req'd for BC and IA
Betamethasone/ Calcipotriol	Dovobet (60g)	0.05%/0.005%	As dir	\$110	BC/IA covered
Imiquimod (24x250mg)	Aldara	5%	As dir	\$305	SA req'd for BC and IA
Lice					
Permethrin	Nix	1%	As dir	\$20	BC/IA covered
Pyrethrins/ Piperonyl Butoxide	R&C	0.33%/3%	As dir	\$20	BC/IA covered
Dimethicone	Nyda	50%	As dir	\$30	BC/IA covered
Isopropyl Myristate	Resultz	50%	As dir	\$30	BC/IA covered

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
IRON PREPARATIONS					
Iron Salt	Brand Name	Total Dose (mg/tab or 5mL)	Elemental Iron (mg/ tab or 5mL)	Cost of 90 day supply (1 pill or 5mL/ day)	Cost of 90 day supply (100mg elemental iron per day)
Ferrous fumarate	Generic brands	300	100	\$5	\$5
Ferrous sulphate	Generic brands	300	60	\$5	\$10
Ferrous gluconate	Generic brands	300	35	\$5	\$20
Ferrous fumarate	Palafer	300	100	\$35	\$35
Polysaccharide Iron	Feramax	150	150	\$55	\$35
Ferrous fumarate	Palafer Suspension	300	100	\$65	\$65
Ferrous sulphate	Generic adult susp	150	30	\$25	\$80
Ferrous sulphate	Fer-in-Sol Adult Susp	150	30	\$35	\$120
Ferrous sulphate	Generic infant susp	375	75	\$120	\$165
Ferrous sulphate	Fer-in-Sol Infant Susp	375	75	\$185	\$245

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About This Document

In the summer of 2011, Jayson worked as a pharmacy student with Tony. One day Dr. Kolber stopped by for a visit. He mentioned, in passing, “Boy, it would be great to have a list of common drugs and what they cost.”

As pharmacists, Tony and Jayson couldn't agree more. We don't mind calling busy, hard working doctors with deep clinical questions but always feel like bothers if it is about coverage limitations or price concerns. So, as preceptors so often do to students, Tony told Jayson to do all the grunt work. Then Tony took all the credit for the work and presented it as his own to Dr. Kolber. Dr. Kolber forgot he mentioned the idea but loved it nonetheless and proposed making it even bigger and bringing it to the ACFP. Thus began our collaboration.

Jayson has since become a fully licensed pharmacist so Tony does the grunt work and, as recompense, lists Jayson as a co-author. In sincerity, lots of consideration, research, and extensive editing goes into this document by all the authors, our professional colleagues, and the great team at ACFP.

Tina and Mike had been helping out with the document for a few years, but we had forgot to include them as authors.

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Mike is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Alberta. He practices in Peace River and belongs to the University of Alberta Department of Family Medicine's Evidence Based Medicine group. Mike contributes to Tools for Practice, presents at the ACFP's CPD Roadshows, and is the Planning Committee Chair for the Practical Evidence for Informed Practice conference.

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Tony practices pharmacy in Peace River as a hospital pharmacist at the Peace River hospital. He provides remote clinical support to numerous hospitals in northwestern Alberta and on-ward clinical support for the acute care unit in Peace River.

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Jayson graduated from University of Alberta in 2013 and now works as a clinical pharmacist at Pharmacare Fulfillment Centre in Edmonton. His main areas of clinical focus are in psychiatry and drug addiction.

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Tina is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Alberta and is a member of the Department's Evidence Based Medicine Group. She practices family medicine at the Northeast Community Health Centre in Edmonton. She also presents at the ACFP's CPD Roadshows, and contributes to Tools for Practice and medical podcasts.

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