



Price Comparison of Commonly Prescribed Pharmaceuticals in Alberta 2017



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, an estimated \$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 Canada, trade name medications account for only 33% of prescriptions filled but 78% of prescription drug costs.^{7,8} For every 1% increase in the use of generic medications, Canada saves approximately \$400 million.⁷ Generics have been shown to be clinically equivalent to trade name medications. 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.⁹

Many medications within a drug class are therapeutically interchangeable with similar anticipated clinical outcomes. Newer medications within a class are often derivatives of older products, frequently at a substantially higher cost, and often not covered under provincial drug plans (see Table 1).

Most provincial governments have or are implementing some type of cost control measures for prescription medications. For instance, Alberta Health recently implemented a maximal allowable cost pricing for proton pump inhibitors. In this program, patients under Alberta government sponsored drug programs will be encouraged to use a lower cost alternative medication (which is covered) or personally pay the cost difference between their higher cost PPIs and the lower cost alternative.¹⁰ We estimate that using lower cost, instead of higher cost, PPIs would save over \$200 million annually in Canada.

With this in mind, we continue to provide our 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.

Besides considering least cost alternative medications, other ways of decreasing costs of prescription medications include:

- Using combination products
- Extending prescriptions for long term medications to at least 90 days
- Splitting medications

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.¹² Many medications cost the same, regardless of the dose, so prescribing a higher dose and splitting it in half would decrease the drug cost by 50% (e.g. sildenafil). 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).

System changes, including adopting a national pharmacare program and extending expiration dates of medications, could provide even greater medication cost savings. It is estimated that if Canada were to adopt a national pharmacare program, \$7 billion would be saved annually in prescription drug costs.¹³ In addition, for every \$1 the US military spends testing the bioavailability of their medications (and extending the shelf life of tested products by on average 6 years), they save an estimated \$100 on medication costs.¹⁴

Costs listed are primarily for the generic product (with generic name bolded) as 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 25, 2017.

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What's New in 2017?

- 1.1 Obesity, Overactive Bladder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity (ADHD) sections
- 1.2 Added: new COPD inhalers including: Seebri, Tudorza and Breo
2. New generics since 2016: Duloxetine (Cymbalta)

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	\$285	Venlafaxine 75mg	\$45	\$240
Glumetza 2000mg QD	Metformin Long-Acting	\$245	Metformin 1000mg BID	\$30	\$215
Advair Diskus 250/50	Fluticasone/Salmeterol	\$335	Symbicort 200/6 (Budesonide/Formoterol)	\$155	\$180
Nexium 40mg	Esomeprazole	\$200	Pantoprazole Magnesium 40mg	\$30	\$170
Vimovo 500/20mg BID	Naproxen/Esomeprazole	\$230	Naproxen 500mg BID + Pantoprazole 40mg BID	\$55 + \$50	\$125
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	\$25	BC / IA covered
Metoprolol-SR	Lopresor SR	100mg, 200mg	QD	\$30, \$45	BC / IA covered
Atenolol	Tenormin	100mg	QD	\$35	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) (Most have HCTZ combo products that are similar in price to the single entity product)					
Ramipril	Altace	5mg, 10mg	QD	\$30	BC / IA covered
Lisinopril	Zestril	20mg	QD	\$30	BC / IA covered
Enalapril	Vasotec	10mg	QD	\$40	BC / IA covered
Perindopril	Coversyl	4mg, 8mg	QD	\$95, \$130	BC / IA covered
Perindopril/Indapamide	Coversyl Plus	4mg/1.25mg	QD	\$110	BC / IA covered
Angiotensin Receptor Blockers (ARBs) (All have HCTZ combo products that are similar in price to the single entity product)					
Candesartan	Atacand	8mg	QD	\$40	BC / IA covered
Telmisartan	Micardis	80mg	QD	\$40	BC / IA covered
Valsartan	Diovan	80, 160mg	QD	\$40	BC / IA covered
Losartan	Cozaar	50mg	QD	\$45	BC / IA covered
Diuretics					
Chlorthalidone	Hygroton	50mg	1/4-1/2 QD	\$15	BC / IA covered
Furosemide	Lasix	20, 40 mg	QD	\$15	BC / IA covered
Hydrochlorothiazide	Hydrodiuril	12.5, 25 mg	QD	\$15	BC / IA covered
Indapamide	Lozide	2.5mg	QD	\$25	BC / IA covered
Spironolactone	Aldactone	25mg, 100mg	QD	\$25, \$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	10, 15, 20mg	QD	\$295	SA req'd for BC and IA
Apixaban	Eliquis	5mg	BID	\$330	SA req'd for BC and IA
Dabigatran	Pradaxa	110, 150mg	BID	\$340	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	Diamicon	80mg	BID	\$30	BC / IA covered
Gliclazide MR	Diamicon MR	30mg	2 QD	\$30	BC / IA covered
Meglitinides					
Repaglinide	Gluconorm	1mg	TID	\$35	BC / IA covered
Dipeptidylpeptidase-4 Inhibitors (DPP-4)					
Linagliptin	Trajenta	5mg	QD	\$265	SA req'd for BC and IA
Saxagliptin	Onglyza	5mg	QD	\$295	SA req'd for BC and IA
Sitagliptin	Januvia	100mg	QD	\$305	SA req'd for BC and IA
Sitagliptin/Metformin	Janumet	50/1000mg	BID	\$330	SA req'd for BC and IA
SGLT2 Inhibitors					
Empagliflozin	Jardiance	10mg	QD	\$270	NC by BC or IA
Canagliflozin	Invokana	100mg	QD	\$280	NC by BC or IA
Glucagon-like Peptide 1 Agonist (GLP-1)					
Liraglutide	Victoza	1.2mg SQ	QD	\$560	SA req'd for BC, NC by IA
Liraglutide	Victoza	1.8mg SQ	QD	\$835	SA req'd for BC, NC by 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	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	\$130	BC / IA covered

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
OBESITY					
Orlistat	Xenical	120mg	TID	\$505	NC by BC or IA
Liraglutide	Saxenda	3mg SQ	QD	\$1,165	NC by BC or IA
SMOKING CESSATION (COST QUOTED FOR 12 WEEKS)					
Bupropion	Wellbutrin SR	150mg	BID	\$60	BC / IA covered
Nortriptyline	Aventyl	25mg	3 HS	\$165	BC / IA covered
Bupropion	Zyban	150mg	BID	\$205	BC / IA covered
Varenicline	Champix	Recommended titration*		\$360	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; \$500 lifetime limit
Nicotine Patch	Nicoderm	Recommended dose**		\$230	OTC, IA covered, BC only SS; \$500 lifetime limit
**21 mg x 8 wks, 14 mg x 2 wks, 7 mg x 2 wks (patch daily)					
Nicotine Gum	Nicorette	4mg	12 pcs/d	\$255	OTC, IA covered, BC only SS; \$500 lifetime limit
Nicotine Inhaler	Nicorette	Cartridges	6 ctgs/d	\$410	OTC, IA covered, BC only SS; \$500 lifetime limit

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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	\$25	BC / IA covered
Ipratropium	Atrovent (200)	200mcg	1pf qid	\$50	BC / IA covered
Tiotropium	Spiriva (30)	18mcg	1 pf qd	\$185	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Glycopyrronium	Seebri (30)	50mcg	1 pf qd	\$190	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Aclidinium	Tudorza (60)	400mcg	1 pf bid	\$190	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
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)	200/6mcg	1 pf bid	\$155	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Fluticasone/Salmeterol	Advair MDI (120)	250/25mcg	1 pf bid	\$240	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Fluticasone/Vilanterol	Breo Ellipta (30)	100/25mcg	1 pf qd	\$285	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Fluticasone/Salmeterol	Advair Diskus (60)	250/50mcg	1 pf bid	\$335	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Long-acting beta agonist/Long-Acting Anticholinergic Combinations					
Glycopyrronium/ Indacaterol	Ultibro (30)	50/110mcg	1 pf qd	\$280	SA req'd for BC and IA
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
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
GASTROINTESTINAL					
***As of October 1, 2016, Maximum Allowable Cost (MAC) pricing exists for PPIs paid for by Alberta government sponsored drug programs. No matter what PPI is prescribed, the drug plan will only pay the cost of the least expensive PPI, pantoprazole magnesium. The patient will have to pay any difference out of pocket.					
Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) ***					
Pantoprazole Magnesium	Tecta	40mg	QD	\$30	BC / IA covered
Rabeprazole	Pariet	20mg	QD	\$35	BC / IA covered
Omeprazole	Losec	20mg	QD	\$55	BC / IA covered
Lansoprazole	Prevacid	30mg	QD	\$60	BC / IA covered
Esomeprazole	Nexium	40mg	QD	\$200	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 14d	\$125	As 3 separate generic prescriptions; All covered by BC and IA
Clarithromycin	Biaxin	500mg	BID x 14d		
Lansoprazole	Prevacid	30mg	BID x 14d		
HP-PAC (14 days of prepacked medications listed above)			BID x 14d	\$210	BC / IA covered
Antiemetics (Cost for 30 tablets)					
Pyridoxine	Vitamin B6	25mg	PRN	\$5	OTC, IA covered but NC BC
Dimenhydrinate	Gravol	50mg	PRN	\$5	OTC, IA covered, BC only SS
Metoclopramide	Maxeran	10mg	PRN	\$15	BC / IA covered
Doxylamine/Pyridoxine	Diclectin	10/10mg	PRN	\$55	BC / IA covered
Ondansetron	Zofran	8mg	PRN	\$175	BC / IA covered
Laxatives					
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					
Mirtazapine	Remeron	30mg	HS	\$30	BC / IA covered
Citalopram	Celexa	20mg	QD	\$35	BC / IA covered
Venlafaxine	Effexor XR	75mg	QD	\$45	BC / IA covered
Sertraline	Zoloft	50mg	QD	\$50	BC / IA covered
Escitalopram	Cipralax	10mg	QD	\$55	BC / IA covered
Fluoxetine	Prozac	20mg	QD	\$60	BC / IA covered
Duloxetine	Cymbalta	30mg, 60mg	QD	\$60, \$110	BC / IA covered
Desvenlafaxine	Pristiq	50mg	QD	\$285	NC by BC or IA
Antipsychotics					
Quetiapine	Seroquel	25mg	HS	\$20	BC / IA covered
Risperidone	Risperdal	1mg	QD	\$40	BC / IA covered
Olanzapine	Zyprexa	5mg, 10mg	QD	\$75, \$140	BC / IA covered
Quetiapine	Seroquel XR	300mg	QD	\$165	BC / IA covered
Aripiprazole	Abilify	15mg	QD	\$410	SA req'd for IA, BC only for SS
Anxiolytic/Sedative					
Lorazepam	Ativan	1mg	PRN	\$15	BC / IA covered
Zopiclone	Imovane	7.5mg	PRN	\$15	BC covered, NC by IA
Trazodone	Desyrel	50mg	PRN	\$20	BC / IA covered
Temazepam	Restoril	30mg	PRN	\$30	BC / IA covered
ADHD Stimulants					
Methylphenidate	Ritalin	10mg	BID	\$30	BC / IA covered
Amphetamines, Mixed Salts	Adderall XR	10mg	QD	\$255	NC by BC or IA
Lisdexamfetamine	Vyvanse	20mg	QD	\$280	IA covered; BC covered (>6 years old)
Methylphenidate	Concerta	36mg	QD	\$295	NC 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	\$65	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	\$90	BC / IA covered
Anti-Androgenic					
Drosperinone	Yasmin*		QD	\$40	BC / IA covered
Drosperinone	YAZ*		QD	\$65	BC / IA covered
*Same chemical constituents. Yasmin is 21 active pills & 7 pill-free days; Yaz is 24 active pills & 4 pill-free days.					
Transdermal/Vaginal Contraceptives					
Etonogestrel	Nuvaring	Vaginal ring	As dir	\$65	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	\$65	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	\$390	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	\$40	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	\$75	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	\$115	BC / IA covered
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	\$70	NC by BC or IA
Tadalafil	Cialis	20mg	As dir	\$65	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 IA, BC covered
Finasteride	Proscar	5mg	QD	\$60	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Overactive Bladder					
Oxybutynin	Ditropan	5mg	TID	\$40	BC / IA covered
Mirabegron	Mybertriq	25mg	QD	\$155	BC covered, NC by IA

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
ANALGESICS					
Non-Steroidal Antiinflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)					
Naproxen	Naproxen	500mg	BID	\$55	BC / IA covered
Diclofenac	Voltaren SR	75mg	BID	\$60	BC / IA covered
Diclofenac/Misoprostol	Arthrotec	75mg/200mcg	BID	\$95	BC / IA covered
Ketorolac	Toradol	10mg	BID	\$115	BC covered, NC by IA
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)					
Zolmitriptan	Zomig	2.5mg	PRN	\$25	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
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		\$25	IA covered, 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		\$45	BC / IA covered
Alendronate	Fosamax	70mg once weekly		\$45	BC / IA covered
Risedronate	Actonel	35mg once weekly		\$45	BC / IA covered
Denosumab	Prolia	60mg subcutaneously q6months		\$210	SA req'd for BC and IA
Dementia					
Donepezil	Aricept	5mg	QD	\$95	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 cause 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	\$15	BC / IA covered
Desonide	Desonate	0.05%	As dir	\$25	BC / IA covered
Miscellaneous Topicals					
Tacrolimus	Protopic (30g tube)	0.03%	As dir	\$85	SA req'd for BC and IA
Betamethasone/ Calcipotriol	Dovobet (60g tube)	0.05/0.005%	As dir	\$110	BC / IA covered
Imiquimod	Aldara (24x250mg)	5%	As dir	\$305	SA req'd for BC and IA

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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	Wampole	300	100	\$5	IA covered but NC BC
Ferrous sulphate	Generic brands	300	60	\$10	IA covered but NC BC
Ferrous gluconate	Generic brands	300	35	\$20	IA covered but NC BC
Polysaccharide Iron	Triferexx	150	150	\$35	NC by BC or IA
Ferrous fumarate	Palafer	300	100	\$35	IA covered but NC BC
Polysaccharide Iron	Feramax	150	150	\$35	NC by BC or IA
Ferrous fumarate	Palafer Suspension	300	100	\$65	IA covered, BC only SS
Ferrous sulphate	Generic adult susp	150	30	\$80	IA covered, BC only SS
Ferrous sulphate	Fer-in-Sol Adult Susp	150	30	\$120	IA covered, BC only SS
Ferrous sulphate	Generic infant susp	375	75	\$165	IA covered, BC only SS
Ferrous sulphate	Fer-in-Sol Infant Susp	375	75	\$245	IA covered, BC only SS
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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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 have been helping out with the document for a few years - and we eventually included 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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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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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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