



## 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.<sup>1</sup> In Canada, prescription medications are the second most costly component of health care, an estimated \$29 billion per year.<sup>2</sup> These costs largely reflect the treatment of chronic medical conditions predominantly cared for by family physicians,<sup>3</sup> including heart disease, high cholesterol, hypertension, diabetes and depression.<sup>2</sup>

Drug store prescriptions make up 90% of prescription medication costs.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5,6</sup> In Canada, trade name medications account for only 33% of prescriptions filled but 78% of prescription drug costs.<sup>7,8</sup> For every 1% increase in the use of generic medications, Canada saves approximately \$400 million.<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup>

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.<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup>

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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## Table of Contents

CARDIOVASCULAR.....	6
Lipid Lowering Agents, Beta Blockers, Calcium Channel Blockers .....	6
Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors (ACEIs), Angiotensin Receptor Blockers (ARBs) .....	7
Diuretics, Anti-platelet, Anti-coagulant .....	7
HYPOGLYCEMIC AGENTS .....	8
OBESITY .....	9
SMOKING CESSATION .....	9
RESPIRATORY .....	10
GASTROINTESTINAL .....	11
PSYCHIATRY .....	12
CONTRACEPTIVES .....	13
HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY .....	14
UROLOGY .....	14
ANALGESICS .....	15
MISCELLANEOUS .....	16
Antibiotics, Osteoporosis, Dementia.....	16
Topical steroids and other preparations .....	17
Oral iron therapy.....	18
Lice treatments.....	18

Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
<b>CARDIOVASCULAR</b>					
<b>Lipid Lowering Agents</b>					
<b>Rosuvastatin</b>	Crestor	10mg, 20mg	QD	<b>\$40</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Atorvastatin</b>	Lipitor	10mg, 20mg	QD	<b>\$50</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Simvastatin</b>	Zocor	10mg	QD	<b>\$50</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Atorvastatin</b>	Lipitor	40mg, 80mg	QD	<b>\$55</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Ezetimibe</b>	Ezetrol	10mg	QD	<b>\$55</b>	SA req'd for BC and IA
<b>Pravastatin</b>	Pravachol	20mg	QD	<b>\$60</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Beta Blockers</b>					
<b>Atenolol</b>	Tenormin	50mg	QD	<b>\$25</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Bisoprolol</b>	Monacor	5mg, 10mg	QD	<b>\$25</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Metoprolol</b>	Lopresor	25mg, 50mg	BID	<b>\$25</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Metoprolol-SR</b>	Lopresor SR	100mg, 200mg	QD	<b>\$30, \$45</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Atenolol</b>	Tenormin	100mg	QD	<b>\$35</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Calcium Channel Blockers</b>					
<b>Amlodipine</b>	Norvasc	5mg	QD	<b>\$35</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Amlodipine</b>	Norvasc	10mg	QD	<b>\$50</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Diltiazem-T</b>	Tiazac	240mg	QD	<b>\$50</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Nifedipine</b>	Adalat XL	30mg	QD	<b>\$75</b>	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
<b>Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors (ACEIs) (Most have HCTZ combo products that are similar in price to the single entity product)</b>					
<b>Ramipril</b>	Altace	5mg, 10mg	QD	<b>\$30</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Lisinopril</b>	Zestril	20mg	QD	<b>\$30</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Enalapril</b>	Vasotec	10mg	QD	<b>\$40</b>	BC / IA covered
Perindopril	<b>Coversyl</b>	4mg, 8mg	QD	<b>\$95, \$130</b>	BC / IA covered
Perindopril/Indapamide	<b>Coversyl Plus</b>	4mg/1.25mg	QD	<b>\$110</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Angiotensin Receptor Blockers (ARBs) (All have HCTZ combo products that are similar in price to the single entity product)</b>					
<b>Candesartan</b>	Atacand	8mg	QD	<b>\$40</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Telmisartan</b>	Micardis	80mg	QD	<b>\$40</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Valsartan</b>	Diovan	80, 160mg	QD	<b>\$40</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Losartan</b>	Cozaar	50mg	QD	<b>\$45</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Diuretics</b>					
<b>Chlorthalidone</b>	Hygroton	50mg	1/4-1/2 QD	<b>\$15</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Furosemide</b>	Lasix	20, 40 mg	QD	<b>\$15</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Hydrochlorothiazide</b>	Hydrodiuril	12.5, 25 mg	QD	<b>\$15</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Indapamide</b>	Lozide	2.5mg	QD	<b>\$25</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Spironolactone</b>	Aldactone	25mg, 100mg	QD	<b>\$25, \$40</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Anti-platelet</b>					
<b>ASA</b>	Aspirin	81mg	QD	<b>\$5</b>	OTC, IA covered but NC BC
<b>Clopidogrel</b>	Plavix	75mg	QD	<b>\$60</b>	SA req'd BC, IA covered
<b>Ticagrelor</b>	Brilinta	90mg	BID	<b>\$310</b>	SA req'd BC, IA covered
<b>Anti-coagulant</b>					
<b>Warfarin</b>	Coumadin	5mg	QD	<b>\$20</b>	BC / IA covered
Rivaroxaban	<b>Xarelto</b>	10, 15, 20mg	QD	<b>\$295</b>	SA req'd for BC and IA
Apixaban	<b>Eliquis</b>	5mg	BID	<b>\$330</b>	SA req'd for BC and IA
Dabigatran	<b>Pradaxa</b>	110, 150mg	BID	<b>\$340</b>	SA req'd for BC and IA

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
<b>HYPOGLYCEMIC AGENTS</b>					
<b>Biguanides</b>					
<b>Metformin</b>	Glucophage	500mg	2 BID	<b>\$30</b>	BC / IA covered
Metformin SR	<b>Glumetza SR</b>	1000mg	2 QD	<b>\$245</b>	NC by BC or IA
<b>Sulfonylureas</b>					
<b>Glyburide</b>	Diabeta	5mg	BID	<b>\$25</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Gliclazide</b>	Diamicon	80mg	BID	<b>\$30</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Gliclazide MR</b>	Diamicon MR	30mg	2 QD	<b>\$30</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Meglitinides</b>					
<b>Repaglinide</b>	Gluconorm	1mg	TID	<b>\$35</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Dipeptidylpeptidase-4 Inhibitors (DPP-4)</b>					
Linagliptin	<b>Trajenta</b>	5mg	QD	<b>\$265</b>	SA req'd for BC and IA
Saxagliptin	<b>Onglyza</b>	5mg	QD	<b>\$295</b>	SA req'd for BC and IA
Sitagliptin	<b>Januvia</b>	100mg	QD	<b>\$305</b>	SA req'd for BC and IA
Sitagliptin/Metformin	<b>Janumet</b>	50/1000mg	BID	<b>\$330</b>	SA req'd for BC and IA
<b>SGLT2 Inhibitors</b>					
Empagliflozin	<b>Jardiance</b>	10mg	QD	<b>\$270</b>	NC by BC or IA
Canagliflozin	<b>Invokana</b>	100mg	QD	<b>\$280</b>	NC by BC or IA
<b>Glucagon-like Peptide 1 Agonist (GLP-1)</b>					
Liraglutide	<b>Victoza</b>	1.2mg SQ	QD	<b>\$560</b>	SA req'd for BC, NC by IA
Liraglutide	<b>Victoza</b>	1.8mg SQ	QD	<b>\$835</b>	SA req'd for BC, NC by IA
<b>Insulin (Prices may vary between pharmacies, relative differences likely consistent. Max allowable price for 1500 Units of penfill insulin)</b>					
Regular insulin	<b>Novolin Toronto/ Humulin R</b>	100U/mL	As dir	<b>\$60</b>	BC / IA covered
Long-acting insulin	<b>Novolin NPH/ Humulin N</b>	100U/mL	As dir	<b>\$60</b>	BC / IA covered
Rapid-acting insulin	<b>Novorapid/Humalog</b>	100U/mL	As dir	<b>\$75</b>	BC / IA covered
Basal insulin (Glargine)	<b>Toujeo</b>	300U/mL	As dir	<b>\$110</b>	NC by BC or IA
Basal insulin (Glargine)	<b>Lantus</b>	100U/mL	As dir	<b>\$115</b>	BC / IA covered
Basal insulin (Detemir)	<b>Levemir</b>	100U/mL	As dir	<b>\$130</b>	BC / IA covered

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
<b>OBESITY</b>					
Orlistat	<b>Xenical</b>	120mg	TID	<b>\$505</b>	NC by BC or IA
Liraglutide	<b>Saxenda</b>	3mg SQ	QD	<b>\$1,165</b>	NC by BC or IA
<b>SMOKING CESSATION (COST QUOTED FOR 12 WEEKS)</b>					
<b>Bupropion</b>	Wellbutrin SR	150mg	BID	<b>\$60</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Nortriptyline</b>	Aventyl	25mg	3 HS	<b>\$165</b>	BC / IA covered
Bupropion	<b>Zyban</b>	150mg	BID	<b>\$205</b>	BC / IA covered
Varenicline	<b>Champix</b>	Recommended titration*		<b>\$360</b>	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					
<b>Nicotine Replacement Therapy</b>					
<b>Nicotine Gum</b>	Nicorette	2mg	12 pcs/d	<b>\$210</b>	OTC, IA covered, BC only SS; \$500 lifetime limit
<b>Nicotine Patch</b>	Nicoderm	Recommended dose**		<b>\$230</b>	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)					
<b>Nicotine Gum</b>	Nicorette	4mg	12 pcs/d	<b>\$255</b>	OTC, IA covered, BC only SS; \$500 lifetime limit
Nicotine Inhaler	<b>Nicorette</b>	Cartridges	6 ctgs/d	<b>\$410</b>	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
<b>RESPIRATORY</b>					
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.					
<b>Bronchodilators / Anti-cholinergics</b>					
<b>Salbutamol</b>	Ventolin (200)	100mcg	4 pfs/d	<b>\$25</b>	BC / IA covered
Ipratropium	<b>Atrovent (200)</b>	200mcg	1pf qid	<b>\$50</b>	BC / IA covered
Tiotropium	<b>Spiriva (30)</b>	18mcg	1 pf qd	<b>\$185</b>	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Glycopyrronium	<b>Seebri (30)</b>	50mcg	1 pf qd	<b>\$190</b>	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Aclidinium	<b>Tudorza (60)</b>	400mcg	1 pf bid	<b>\$190</b>	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
<b>Corticosteroids</b>					
Beclomethasone	<b>Qvar (200)</b>	100mcg	1 pf bid	<b>\$70</b>	BC / IA covered
Budesonide	<b>Pulmicort (200)</b>	200mcg	1 pf bid	<b>\$75</b>	BC / IA covered
Fluticasone	<b>Flovent (120)</b>	125mcg	1 pf bid	<b>\$80</b>	BC / IA covered
Fluticasone	<b>Flovent (120)</b>	250mcg	1 pf bid	<b>\$150</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Long-acting beta agonist/Corticosteroid Combinations</b>					
Budesonide/Formoterol	<b>Symbicort (120)</b>	200/6mcg	1 pf bid	<b>\$155</b>	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Fluticasone/Salmeterol	<b>Advair MDI (120)</b>	250/25mcg	1 pf bid	<b>\$240</b>	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Fluticasone/Vilanterol	<b>Breo Ellipta (30)</b>	100/25mcg	1 pf qd	<b>\$285</b>	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Fluticasone/Salmeterol	<b>Advair Diskus (60)</b>	250/50mcg	1 pf bid	<b>\$335</b>	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
<b>Long-acting beta agonist/Long-Acting Anticholinergic Combinations</b>					
Glycopyrronium/ Indacaterol	<b>Ultibro (30)</b>	50/110mcg	1 pf qd	<b>\$280</b>	SA req'd for BC and IA
<b>Leukotriene Receptor Antagonist</b>					
<b>Montelukast</b>	Singulair	10mg	QD	<b>\$95</b>	SA req'd for BC and IA; BC cov'd if 6-18 years old
<b>Nasal Corticosteroids</b>					
<b>Beclomethasone</b>	Beconase (200)	50mcg	4 pfs/d	<b>\$35</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Fluticasone Propionate</b>	Flonase (120)	50mcg	2 pfs/d	<b>\$50</b>	NC BC, IA covered

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
<b>GASTROINTESTINAL</b>					
***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) ***					
<b>Pantoprazole Magnesium</b>	Tecta	40mg	QD	<b>\$30</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Rabeprazole</b>	Pariet	20mg	QD	<b>\$35</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Omeprazole</b>	Losec	20mg	QD	<b>\$55</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Lansoprazole</b>	Prevacid	30mg	QD	<b>\$60</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Esomeprazole</b>	Nexium	40mg	QD	<b>\$200</b>	NC by BC or IA
Dexlansoprazole	<b>Dexilant</b>	30mg	QD	<b>\$230</b>	NC by BC or IA
Histamine-2 Receptor Antagonists (H2RAs)					
<b>Ranitidine</b>	Zantac	150mg	BID	<b>\$50</b>	OTC, but BC / IA covered
Helicobacter Pylori Eradication					
<b>Amoxicillin</b>	Amoxil	1g	BID x 14d	<b>\$125</b>	As 3 separate generic prescriptions; All covered by BC and IA
<b>Clarithromycin</b>	Biaxin	500mg	BID x 14d		
<b>Lansoprazole</b>	Prevacid	30mg	BID x 14d		
<b>HP-PAC</b> (14 days of prepacked medications listed above)			BID x 14d	<b>\$210</b>	BC / IA covered
Antiemetics (Cost for 30 tablets)					
<b>Pyridoxine</b>	Vitamin B6	25mg	PRN	<b>\$5</b>	OTC, IA covered but NC BC
<b>Dimenhydrinate</b>	Gravol	50mg	PRN	<b>\$5</b>	OTC, IA covered, BC only SS
<b>Metoclopramide</b>	Maxeran	10mg	PRN	<b>\$15</b>	BC / IA covered
Doxylamine/Pyridoxine	<b>Diclectin</b>	10/10mg	PRN	<b>\$55</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Ondansetron</b>	Zofran	8mg	PRN	<b>\$175</b>	BC / IA covered
Laxatives					
<b>Lactulose</b>	Lactulose	1 tbsp	QD	<b>\$35</b>	OTC; BC / IA covered
<b>PEG3350</b>	Restoralax	17g	QD	<b>\$60</b>	OTC, IA covered but NC BC

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
<b>PSYCHIATRY</b>					
<b>Anti-Depressants</b>					
<b>Mirtazapine</b>	Remeron	30mg	HS	<b>\$30</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Citalopram</b>	Celexa	20mg	QD	<b>\$35</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Venlafaxine</b>	Effexor XR	75mg	QD	<b>\$45</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Sertraline</b>	Zoloft	50mg	QD	<b>\$50</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Escitalopram</b>	Cipralax	10mg	QD	<b>\$55</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Fluoxetine</b>	Prozac	20mg	QD	<b>\$60</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Duloxetine</b>	Cymbalta	30mg, 60mg	QD	<b>\$60, \$110</b>	BC / IA covered
Desvenlafaxine	<b>Pristiq</b>	50mg	QD	<b>\$285</b>	NC by BC or IA
<b>Antipsychotics</b>					
<b>Quetiapine</b>	Seroquel	25mg	HS	<b>\$20</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Risperidone</b>	Risperdal	1mg	QD	<b>\$40</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Olanzapine</b>	Zyprexa	5mg, 10mg	QD	<b>\$75, \$140</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Quetiapine</b>	Seroquel XR	300mg	QD	<b>\$165</b>	BC / IA covered
Aripiprazole	<b>Abilify</b>	15mg	QD	<b>\$410</b>	SA req'd for IA, BC only for SS
<b>Anxiolytic/Sedative</b>					
<b>Lorazepam</b>	Ativan	1mg	PRN	<b>\$15</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Zopiclone</b>	Imovane	7.5mg	PRN	<b>\$15</b>	BC covered, NC by IA
<b>Trazodone</b>	Desyrel	50mg	PRN	<b>\$20</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Temazepam</b>	Restoril	30mg	PRN	<b>\$30</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>ADHD Stimulants</b>					
<b>Methylphenidate</b>	Ritalin	10mg	BID	<b>\$30</b>	BC / IA covered
Amphetamines, Mixed Salts	<b>Adderall XR</b>	10mg	QD	<b>\$255</b>	NC by BC or IA
Lisdexamfetamine	<b>Vyvanse</b>	20mg	QD	<b>\$280</b>	IA covered; BC covered (>6 years old)
Methylphenidate	<b>Concerta</b>	36mg	QD	<b>\$295</b>	NC BC, IA covered

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
<b>CONTRACEPTIVES</b>					
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.					
<b>1st Generation Progestins</b>					
<b>Norethindrone</b>	Synphasic		QD	<b>\$50</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>2nd Generation Progestins</b>					
<b>Levonorgestrel</b>	Alesse		QD	<b>\$35</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Levonorgestrel</b>	Min-Ovral		QD	<b>\$35</b>	BC / IA covered
Levonorgestrel	<b>Triquilar</b>		QD	<b>\$65</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>3rd Generation Progestins</b>					
<b>Desogestrel</b>	Marvelon		QD	<b>\$40</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Norgestimate</b>	Tri-Cyclen Lo		QD	<b>\$45</b>	BC / IA covered
Norgestimate	<b>Tri-Cyclen</b>		QD	<b>\$90</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Anti-Androgenic</b>					
<b>Drosperinone</b>	Yasmin*		QD	<b>\$40</b>	BC / IA covered
Drosperinone	<b>YAZ*</b>		QD	<b>\$65</b>	BC / IA covered
*Same chemical constituents. Yasmin is 21 active pills & 7 pill-free days; Yaz is 24 active pills & 4 pill-free days.					
<b>Transdermal/Vaginal Contraceptives</b>					
Etonogestrel	<b>Nuvaring</b>	Vaginal ring	As dir	<b>\$65</b>	NC BC, IA covered
Norelgestromin	<b>Evra</b>	Patch	As dir	<b>\$85</b>	NC BC, IA covered
<b>Intrauterine Devices (IUDs)</b>					
5 Year Copper IUD	<b>Mona Lisa*</b>	IUD	As dir	<b>\$65</b>	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	<b>Mirena**</b>	IUD	As dir	<b>\$390</b>	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
<b>HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY</b>					
Oral					
<b>Medroxyprogesterone</b>	Provera	5mg	QD	<b>\$20</b>	BC / IA covered
Estradiol-17 $\beta$	<b>Estrace</b>	1mg	QD	<b>\$40</b>	BC / IA covered
Conjugated Estrogens	<b>Premarin</b>	0.625mg	QD	<b>\$40</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Micronized progesterone</b>	Prometrium	100mg	HS	<b>\$125</b>	BC / IA covered
Transdermal					
<b>Estradiol-17<math>\beta</math> Patch</b>	Estradot/Oesclim	50mcg	Twice weekly	<b>\$75</b>	BC / IA covered
Estradiol-17 $\beta$ Gel	<b>Estrogel</b>	1.5mg	QD	<b>\$100</b>	BC / IA covered
Vaginal					
Conjugated Estrogens	<b>Premarin Vaginal Cr</b>	0.625mg	QD	<b>\$75</b>	BC / IA covered
Estradiol-17 $\beta$ Vaginal Tablet	<b>Vagifem-10</b>	10mcg	Twice weekly	<b>\$115</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>UROLOGY</b>					
Erectile Dysfunction (Cost for 4 tablets; may split tablet for lower dose to save costs)					
<b>Sildenafil</b>	Viagra	50mg, 100mg	As dir	<b>\$50</b>	NC by BC or IA
Vardenafil	<b>Levitra</b>	20mg	As dir	<b>\$70</b>	NC by BC or IA
Tadalafil	<b>Cialis</b>	20mg	As dir	<b>\$65</b>	NC by BC or IA
Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH)					
<b>Tamsulosin CR</b>	Flomax CR	0.4mg	QD	<b>\$25</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Terazosin</b>	Hytrin	2mg	QD	<b>\$35</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Dutasteride</b>	Avodart	0.5mg	QD	<b>\$55</b>	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
<b>Finasteride</b>	Proscar	5mg	QD	<b>\$60</b>	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Overactive Bladder					
<b>Oxybutynin</b>	Ditropan	5mg	TID	<b>\$40</b>	BC / IA covered
Mirabegron	<b>Mybertriq</b>	25mg	QD	<b>\$155</b>	BC covered, NC by IA

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
<b>ANALGESICS</b>					
<b>Non-Steroidal Antiinflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)</b>					
<b>Naproxen</b>	Naproxen	500mg	BID	<b>\$55</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Diclofenac</b>	Voltaren SR	75mg	BID	<b>\$60</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Diclofenac/Misoprostol</b>	Arthrotec	75mg/200mcg	BID	<b>\$95</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Ketorolac</b>	Toradol	10mg	BID	<b>\$115</b>	BC covered, NC by IA
Naproxen/ Esomeprazole	<b>Vimovo</b>	500mg/20mg	BID	<b>\$230</b>	NC by BC or IA
<b>COX2 Inhibitor</b>					
<b>Celecoxib</b>	Celebrex	200mg	QD	<b>\$45</b>	SA req'd for BC and IA
<b>Miscellaneous (Cost for 90 tablets)</b>					
<b>Tramadol/ Acetaminophen</b>	Tramacet	37.5mg/325mg	PRN	<b>\$75</b>	NC by BC or IA
<b>Anti-Migraine (Cost for 6 tablets)</b>					
<b>Zolmitriptan</b>	Zomig	2.5mg	PRN	<b>\$25</b>	SA req'd BC, IA covered with quantity limits
<b>Sumatriptan</b>	Imitrex	100mg	PRN	<b>\$65</b>	SA req'd BC, IA covered with quantity limits
<b>Neuropathic or Chronic Pain</b>					
<b>Amitriptyline</b>	Elavil	10mg, 25mg	HS	<b>\$25</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Amitriptyline</b>	Elavil	50mg	HS	<b>\$35</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Gabapentin</b>	Neurontin	300mg	TID	<b>\$65</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Pregabalin</b>	Lyrica	50mg	QD	<b>\$110</b>	SA req'd for IA, NC by BC
<b>Gout</b>					
<b>Allopurinol</b>	Zyloprim	200mg	QD	<b>\$25</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Colchicine</b>	Colchicine	0.6mg	QD	<b>\$40</b>	BC / IA covered

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>					
<b>Antibiotics</b>					
<b>Doxycycline</b>	Doxycycline	100mg QD x 7 days		<b>\$15</b>	BC / IA covered
Nitrofurantoin	<b>Macrobid</b>	100mg BID x 3 days		<b>\$15</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Sulfameth/Trimeth</b>	Septra	DS BID x 3 days		<b>\$15</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Amoxicillin</b>	Amoxil	500mg TID x 7 days		<b>\$20</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Azithromycin</b>	Zithromax	500mg, 250mg x 4 days		<b>\$20</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Ciprofloxacin</b>	Cipro	500mg BID x 5 days		<b>\$20</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Cephalexin</b>	Keflex	500mg QID x 7 days		<b>\$25</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Levofloxacin</b>	Levaquin	500mg QD x 7 days		<b>\$25</b>	IA covered, special restrictions for BC
<b>Amoxicillin/Clavulanate</b>	Clavulin	500mg TID x 7 days		<b>\$30</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Clarithromycin</b>	Biaxin	500mg BID x 5 days		<b>\$30</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Moxifloxacin</b>	Avelox	400mg QD x 7 days		<b>\$25</b>	IA covered, special restrictions for BC
<b>Osteoporosis</b>					
<b>Calcium Carbonate</b>	Calcium	500mg	TID	<b>\$5</b>	OTC, IA covered but NC BC
<b>Vitamin D</b>	Vitamin D	1000IU	QD	<b>\$5</b>	OTC, IA covered; liquid cov'd on BC up to age 17
<b>Etidronate/Calcium</b>	Didrocal	As directed		<b>\$45</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Alendronate</b>	Fosamax	70mg once weekly		<b>\$45</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Risedronate</b>	Actonel	35mg once weekly		<b>\$45</b>	BC / IA covered
Denosumab	<b>Prolia</b>	60mg subcutaneously q6months		<b>\$210</b>	SA req'd for BC and IA
<b>Dementia</b>					
<b>Donepezil</b>	Aricept	5mg	QD	<b>\$95</b>	SA req'd for BC and IA
<b>Galantamine ER</b>	Reminyl ER	16mg	QD	<b>\$135</b>	SA req'd for BC and IA
<b>Rivastigmine</b>	Exelon	3mg	BID	<b>\$140</b>	SA req'd for BC and IA

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
<b>TOPICALS</b>					
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>					
<b>Clobetasol 17-propionate</b>	Dermovate	0.05%	As dir	<b>\$20</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Betamethasone Dipropionate Glycol</b>	Diprolene	0.05%	As dir	<b>\$30</b>	BC / IA covered
<i>Class II/III-High Potency</i>					
<b>Amcinonide</b>	Cyclocort	0.10%	As dir	<b>\$20</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Betamethasone Dipropionate</b>	Diprosone	0.05%	As dir	<b>\$20</b>	BC / IA covered
<i>Class IV/V-Moderate Potency</i>					
<b>Betamethasone Valerate</b>	Betaderm/Betnovate	0.10%	As dir	<b>\$15</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Mometasone Furoate</b>	Elocom	0.10%	As dir	<b>\$30</b>	BC / IA covered
<i>Class VI/VII-Low Potency</i>					
<b>Hydrocortisone</b>	Cortate	1.00%	As dir	<b>\$15</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Desonide</b>	Desonate	0.05%	As dir	<b>\$25</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Miscellaneous Topicals</b>					
Tacrolimus	<b>Protopic (30g tube)</b>	0.03%	As dir	<b>\$85</b>	SA req'd for BC and IA
Betamethasone/ Calcipotriol	<b>Dovobet (60g tube)</b>	0.05/0.005%	As dir	<b>\$110</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Imiquimod</b>	Aldara (24x250mg)	5%	As dir	<b>\$305</b>	SA req'd for BC and IA

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<b>IRON PREPARATIONS</b>					
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	<b>Wampole</b>	300	100	<b>\$5</b>	IA covered but NC BC
<b>Ferrous sulphate</b>	Generic brands	300	60	<b>\$10</b>	IA covered but NC BC
<b>Ferrous gluconate</b>	Generic brands	300	35	<b>\$20</b>	IA covered but NC BC
Polysaccharide Iron	<b>Triferexx</b>	150	150	<b>\$35</b>	NC by BC or IA
Ferrous fumarate	<b>Palafer</b>	300	100	<b>\$35</b>	IA covered but NC BC
Polysaccharide Iron	<b>Feramax</b>	150	150	<b>\$35</b>	NC by BC or IA
Ferrous fumarate	<b>Palafer Suspension</b>	300	100	<b>\$65</b>	IA covered, BC only SS
<b>Ferrous sulphate</b>	Generic adult susp	150	30	<b>\$80</b>	IA covered, BC only SS
Ferrous sulphate	<b>Fer-in-Sol Adult Susp</b>	150	30	<b>\$120</b>	IA covered, BC only SS
<b>Ferrous sulphate</b>	Generic infant susp	375	75	<b>\$165</b>	IA covered, BC only SS
Ferrous sulphate	<b>Fer-in-Sol Infant Susp</b>	375	75	<b>\$245</b>	IA covered, BC only SS
<b>LICE</b>					
<b>Permethrin</b>	Nix	1%	As dir	<b>\$20</b>	BC / IA covered
<b>Pyrethrins/ Piperonyl Butoxide</b>	R&C	0.33%/3%	As dir	<b>\$20</b>	BC / IA covered
Dimethicone	<b>Nyda</b>	50%	As dir	<b>\$30</b>	BC / IA covered
Isopropyl Myristate	<b>Resultz</b>	50%	As dir	<b>\$30</b>	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.

## About the Contributors

**Michael R. Kolber** BSc MD CCFP MSc  
Family Physician

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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.

**Jayson Lee** BSc Pharm  
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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.

**Christina Korownyk** BSc MD CCFP  
Family Physician

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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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Mike is a Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Director of Evidence Based Medicine at the University of Alberta. He presently works at the Northeast Community Health Centre in Edmonton. He also contributes to Tools for Practice, presents at the ACFP's CPD Roadshows, and participates in a weekly medical podcast.

**Tony Nickonchuk** BSc Pharm  
Clinical Pharmacist

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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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