

Price Comparison of Commonly Prescribed Pharmaceuticals in Alberta 2018



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

Among OECD nations, Canada's drug spending per capita is lower than only Switzerland and the United States.<sup>4</sup> Canada also has the second highest rate of cost related medicine non-adherence in the world, where one in 12 Canadians do not fill a prescription or skip doses due to medication costs.<sup>5</sup> In Alberta, trade name medications account for 33% of prescriptions but around 80% of prescription drug costs.<sup>6</sup> On a national level, the top 100 most expensive prescription drugs (of ~3000 available products),<sup>7</sup> account for almost half of total prescription drug spending.<sup>8</sup>

Canada is currently the only country with a universal health insurance system without a national pharmacare program.<sup>11</sup> Adopting a national pharmacare program would save approximately 7 billion dollars annually in prescription drug costs.<sup>11</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). In 2015, pharmaceutical companies spent over 500 million dollars on journal advertisements and sales representative visits in Canada,<sup>9</sup> with over 90% of marketing aimed at medications with little or no therapeutic gain over existing products.<sup>10</sup>

Most provincial governments are implementing cost control measures for prescription medications. For instance, Alberta implemented a maximum allowable cost pricing for proton pump inhibitors, where patients are encouraged to use a covered lower cost alternative medication or personally pay the cost difference between their higher and lower cost alternative. We estimate that using lower cost PPIs could save over 200 million dollars annually in Canada without an appreciable change in most patients symptoms or health.

Recently, the panCanadian Pharmaceutical Alliance announced a new pricing deal with generic pharmaceutical makers.<sup>13</sup> While they negotiated a 25-40% price reduction for the 70 most commonly prescribed generic medications,<sup>14</sup> Canadians will still be paying significantly more than other countries for their generic medications,<sup>14</sup> (see Table 2)

Medication costs information may influence prescribers to choose lower cost alternative medications.<sup>15</sup> With this in mind, we are pleased to publish our 6th annual Price Comparison of Commonly Prescribed Pharmaceuticals in Alberta. We encourage prescribers to consider costs (and medication coverage) when treating chronic medical conditions and especially when needing to choose between therapeutically similar medications.

In addition to considering least cost alternatives, other ways of decreasing medication costs include:

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

In this document, 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 to the health system. The reported 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, but is up to date as of February 3, 2018. We encourage you to contact your local pharmacist for information on medications not included that you routinely use in your practice.

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

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### What's New in 2018?

Added: Acne medication and Testosterone replacemen

# 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
Brilinta 90mg	Ticagrelor	\$315	Clopidogrel 75mg	\$50	\$265
Trintellix 20mg	Vortioxetine	\$320	Fluoxetine 20mg	\$60	\$260
Pristiq 50mg	Desvenlafaxine	\$285	Venlafaxine 75mg	\$45	\$240
Glumetza SR 2000mg QD	Metformin SR	\$255	Metformin 1g BID	\$30	\$225
Advair Diskus 250/50	Fluticasone/ Salmeterol	\$340	Symbicort 200/6 (Budesonide/ Formoterol)	\$155	\$185
Nexium 40mg	Esomeprazole	\$200	Pantoprazole 40mg	\$30	\$170
Coversyl 4mg	Perindopril	\$95	Ramipril 5mg	\$30	\$65

# Table 2: Comparison of Newly Negotiated Canadian Generic and New Zealand Generic Medication Prices

Drug	Frequency	New Canadian Price Per 3 Month Supply (\$CAD)	New Zealand Price Per 3 Month Supply (\$CAD)	Difference
Atorvastatin 80mg	Daily	\$21	\$6	-\$15
Amlodipine 5mg	Daily	\$12	\$1	-\$11
Metformin 850mg	TID	\$9	\$4	-\$5
Candesartan 32mg	Daily	\$21	\$10	-\$11
Olanzapine 10mg	Daily	\$64	\$5	-\$59
Finasteride 5mg	Daily	\$37	\$4	-\$33

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Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	90 Day Cost (unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
CARDIOVASCULAR					20 1 2. 3.9 2
Lipid Lowering Agents					
Rosuvastatin	Crestor	10mg,20mg	QD	\$40	BC / IA covered
Simvastatin	Zocor	10mg	QD	\$40	BC / IA covered
Atorvastatin	Lipitor	10mg	QD	\$40	BC / IA covered
Atorvastatin	Lipitor	20,40,80mg	QD	\$45	BC / IA covered
Ezetimibe	Ezetrol	10mg	QD	\$45	SA req'd for BC and IA
Pravastatin	Pravachol	20mg	QD	\$60	BC / IA covered
Evolocumab	Repatha	140mg sub-Q	q2weeks	\$1,775	NC by BC or IA
Beta Blockers					
Atenolol	Tenormin	50mg	QD	\$25	BC / IA covered
Bisoprolol	Monocor	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 Block	ers				
Amlodipine	Norvasc	5mg,10mg	QD	\$30, \$40	BC / IA covered
Diltiazem-T	Tiazac	240mg	QD	\$50	BC / IA covered
Nifedipine	Adalat XL	30mg	QD	\$75	BC / IA covered
Angiotensin Converting	g Enzyme Inhibitors (AC	Els) (All have HCTZ com	bo 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

### LEGEND:

				90 Day Cost	
Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	(unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
					o the single entity product)
Losartan	Cozaar	50mg	QD	\$30	BC / IA covered
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
Neprilysin Inhibitor/ARI		00, 1001119	QD	<b>440</b>	BC / IA covered
Sacubitril/Valsartan	Entresto	97mg/103mg	BID	\$730	SA req'd for BC and IA; Prescriber restriction
ARB/Calcium Channel E	Blocker Combinations				
Telmisartan/Amlodipine	Twynsta	80mg/5mg	QD	\$80	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	\$50	BC / IA covered
Ticagrelor	Brilinta	90mg	BID	\$315	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

### LEGEND:

				90 Day Cost	
Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	otherwise noted)	Coverage
HYPOGLYCEMIC AGE	ENTS				
Biguanides					
Metformin	Glucophage	500mg	2 BID	\$30	BC / IA covered
Metformin SR	Glumetza SR	1000mg	2 QD	\$255	NC by BC or IA
Sulfonylureas					
Glyburide	Diabeta	5mg	BID	\$25	BC / IA covered
Gliclazide, Gliclazide MR	Diamicron/MR	80mg/30mg MR	BID, 2 QD MR	\$30	BC / IA covered
Meglitinides					
Repaglinide	Gluconorm	1mg	TID	\$35	BC / IA covered
Dipeptidylpeptidase-4 I	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	\$310	SA req'd for BC and IA
Sodium Glucose Cotran	sporter 2 (SGLT2) Inhib	oitors			
Empagliflozin	Jardiance	10mg	QD	\$270	SA req'd for BC and IA
Canagliflozin	Invokana	100mg	QD	\$280	SA req'd for BC and IA
Glucagon-like Peptide 1	Agonist (GLP-1)				
Liraglutide	Victoza	1.2mg SQ	QD	\$575	NC by BC or IA
Liraglutide	Victoza	1.8mg SQ	QD	\$855	NC by BC or IA
Insulin (Prices may vary k	petween pharmacies, relat	ive differences likely co	nsistent. Max al	lowable 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	\$65	BC / IA covered
Rapid-acting insulin	Novorapid/Humalog	100U/mL	As dir	\$75	BC / IA covered
Basal insulin (Glargine)	Basaglar	100U/mL	As dir	\$90	BC covered, NC by IA
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
OBESITY					
Orlistat	Xenical	120mg	TID	\$505	NC by BC or IA
Liraglutide	Saxenda	3mg SQ	QD	\$1,165	NC by BC or IA

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				90 Day Cost (unless	
Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	otherwise noted)	Coverage
SMOKING CESSATIO	N (Cost quoted for 12	weeks of stated do	sing frequen	cy)	
Bupropion	Wellbutrin SR	150mg	BID	\$60	BC / IA covered
Nortriptyline	Aventyl	25mg	3 HS	\$165	BC / IA covered
Bupropion	Zyban	150mg	BID	\$210	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, 0.5m	ng bid x 4 days, 1mg bid th	ereafter			
Nicotine Replacement	Therapy				
Nicotine Gum	Nicorette	2mg	12 pcs/d	\$210	OTC, IA covered, BC only SS; lifetime \$ limit
Nicotine Patch	Nicoderm	Recommended dose**		\$230	OTC, IA covered, BC only SS; lifetime \$ limit
**21 mg x 8 wks, 14 mg x	2 wks, 7 mg x 2 wks (patc	h daily)			
Nicotine Gum	Nicorette	4mg	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

				90 Day Cost	
Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	(unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
RESPIRATORY	Drana name		Dosing		
	as' (puffs) par davias sa	composing costs is diffic	oult. The OO day	, cost was calcula	ated by 1 Determining the
					ated by: 1. Determining the ost per dose 3.Adding the
					nore fair comparison between
therapies. Brackets next t	o brand name indicate nu	imber of doses per devi	ce.		
Bronchodilators / Anti-	cholingergics				
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
Corticosteroids					
Beclomethasone	Qvar (200)	100mcg	1 pf bid	\$75	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 Anti-cholin	nergic/Long-acting Bet	a-agonist Combinatio	ns		
Glycopyrronium/ Indacaterol	Ultibro (30)	50/110mcg	1 pf qd	\$280	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Long-acting beta agon	ist/Corticosteroid Com	binations			
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	\$245	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	\$340	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Leukotriene Receptor A	Antagonist				
Montelukast	Singulair	10mg	QD	\$95	SA req'd for BC and IA; BC cov'd if 6-18 years old

				90 Day Cost	
Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	(unless otherwise noted)	Coverage
GASTROINTESTINAL					
	- Maximum Allowable Cost	(MAC) pricing exists for	PPIs paid for h	ov Alberta govern	nment sponsored drug
	will only pay the cost of ra				
magnesium for high dose	PPI.				
Proton Pump Inhibitors	(PPIs) ***				
Rabeprazole	Pariet	10mg	QD	\$25	BC / IA covered
Pantoprazole	Pantoloc/Tecta	40mg	QD	\$30	BC / IA covered
Omeprazole	Losec	20mg	QD	\$55	BC / IA covered
Lansoprazole	Prevacid	30mg	QD	\$60	BC / IA covered
Esomeprazole	Nexium	40mg	QD	\$230	NC by BC or IA
Dexlansoprazole	Dexilant	30mg	QD	\$230	NC by BC or IA
Histamine-2 Receptor A	Antagonists (H2RAs)				
Ranitidine	Zantac	150mg	BID	\$50	OTC, but BC / IA covered
Helicobacter Pylori Era	dication				
Amoxicillin	Amoxil	1g	BID x 14d		"As 3 separate generic prescriptions; All 3 covered by BC and IA"
Clarithromycin	Biaxin	500mg	BID x 14d	\$125	
Lansoprazole	Prevacid	30mg	BID x 14d		
HP-PAC (14 days of prepa	acked medications listed a	above)	BID x 14d	\$210	BC / IA covered
Antiemetics (Cost for 3	30 tablets)				
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	\$35	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

				00 D C	
				90 Day Cost (unless	
Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	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	Cipralex	10mg	QD	\$55	BC / IA covered
Paroxetine	Paxil	20mg	QD	\$55	BC / IA covered
Fluoxetine	Prozac	20mg	QD	\$60	BC / IA covered
Duloxetine	Cymbalta	30mg	QD	\$60	BC / IA covered
Desvenlafaxine	Pristiq	50mg	QD	\$285	NC by BC or IA
Vortioxetine	Trintellix	20mg	QD	\$320	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 (C	ost for 90 tablets)				
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
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 ages 6 and older
Methylphenidate	Concerta	36mg	QD	\$300	NC BC, IA covered

				90 Day Cost (unless	
Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	otherwise noted)	Coverage
CONTRACEPTIVES	S				
	or 12 week supply unless The listed progesterone.	otherwise stated, and 2	1 or 28 tab produc	cts costs are equiva	alent. All except IUDs contain
1st Generation Proge	estins				
Norethindrone	Synphasic		QD	\$55	BC / IA covered
2nd Generation Prog	gestins				
Levonorgestrel	Alesse		QD	\$35	BC / IA covered
Levonorgestrel	Min-Ovral		QD	\$35	BC / IA covered
Levonorgestrel	Triquilar		QD	\$65	BC / IA covered
3rd Generation Prog	jestins				
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	\$55	BC / IA covered
Drosperinone	YAZ*		QD	\$65	NC BC, IA covered
*Same chemical const	ituents. Yasmin is 21 act	tive pills & 7 pill-free day	s; Yaz is 24 active	e pills & 4 pill-free c	days.
Transdermal/Vagina	l Contraceptives				
Etonogestrel	Nuvaring	Vaginal ring	As dir	\$65	NC BC, IA covered
Norelgestromin	Evra	Patch	As dir	\$90	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	on for up to 5 years. Up	front cost is higher but	divided over 5 yea	ars, cost is \$3 per 8	4 days.
Levonorgestrel	Mirena**	IUD	As dir	\$395	BC / IA covered for 1 per 2 years
**Provides contracept	ion for up to 5 years. Up	ofront cost is high but d	ivided over 5 year	rs, cost is \$20 per 8	34 days.

				90 Day Cost		
				(unless		
Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	otherwise noted)	Coverage	
HORMONE REPLACE	MENT THERAPY					
Oral						
Medroxyprogesterone	Provera	5mg	QD	\$20	BC / IA covered	
Estradiol-17ß	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-17ß Patch	Estradot/Oesclim	50mcg	Twice weekly	\$75	BC / IA covered	
Estradiol-17ß Gel	Estrogel	1.5mg	QD	\$100	BC / IA covered	
Vaginal						
Conjugated Estrogens	Premarin Vaginal Cr	0.625mg	QD	\$75	BC / IA covered	
Estradiol-17ß Vaginal Tablet	Vagifem-10	10mcg	Twice weekly	\$115	BC / IA covered	
UROLOGY						
Erectile Dysfunction (C	ost for 4 tablets; may s	plit tablet for lower do	se to save co	sts)		
Sildenafil	Viagra	50mg, 100mg	As dir	\$50	NC by BC or IA	
Tadalafil	Cialis	20mg	As dir	\$65	NC by BC or IA	
Vardenafil	Levitra	20mg	As dir	\$70	NC by BC or IA	
Benign Prostatic Hyper	plasia (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	
Testosterone Replacement (Pricing based on estimated typical usage for 90 days) Updated Mar 31, 2018						
<b>Testosterone Cypionate</b>	Depo-Testosterone	100mg/mL	200mg Q2W	\$70	SA req'd for IA, BC covered	
<b>Testosterone Enanthate</b>	Delatestryl	200mg/mL	400mg q30d	\$80	SA req'd for IA, BC covered	
Testosterone Undecanoate	Andriol	40mg	BID	\$105	SA req'd for BC and IA	
<b>Testosterone Gel</b>	Androgel	5g	QD	\$405	NC by BC or IA	
<b>Testosterone Patch</b>	Androderm	5g/day	QD	\$430	SA req'd for BC, NC by IA	

				90 Day Cost		
Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	otherwise noted)	Coverage	
ANALGESICS						
Non-Steroidal Antiinflar	mmatory Drugs (NSAID	s)				
Naproxen	Naproxen	500mg	BID	\$55	BC / IA covered	
Diclofenac	Voltaren SR	75mg	BID	\$60	BC / IA covered	
Ketorolac	Toradol	10mg	BID	\$85	BC covered, NC by IA	
Diclofenac/Misoprostol	Arthrotec	75mg/200mcg	BID	\$95	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)					
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	
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	

				90 Day Cost	
				(unless	
Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	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 da	ys	\$20	BC / IA covered
Ciprofloxacin	Cipro	500mg BID x 5 days		\$20	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
Antifungals (Onychomy	ycosis dosing)				
Fluconazole	Diflucan	150mg once weekly x 12 weeks		\$65	BC / IA covered
Cicloporox	Penlac	Nail lacquer; price for 6g		\$65	NC by BC or IA
Efinaconazole	Jublia	Nail lacquer; price for 8mL		\$110	NC by BC or IA
Terbinafine	Lamisil	250mg qd x 12 weeks		\$185	BC / IA covered
Itraconazole	Sporanox	200mg qd x 12 weeks		\$400	BC / IA covered
Osteoporosis					
<b>Etidronate/Calcium</b>	Didrocal	As directed		\$45	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
Zoledronic Acid	Aclasta	5mg yearly		\$95	SA req'd for BC and IA
Denosumab	Prolia	60mg sub-Q every 6 months		\$210	SA req'd for BC and IA
Teriparatide	Forteo	20mcg sub-Q	QD	\$2,885	NC by BC or 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

### LEGEND:

				90 Day Cost	
Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	(unless	Coverage
		Judigui	Dosing	otherwise noted)	Coverage
TOPICALS	(D.: . ( 70   1				
Topical Corticosteroids cause small price increa		e of cream; since maj	ority of price	is from dispensii	ng fee, large quantities
Class I-Ultra High Potency	/				
Clobetasol 17-propionate	Dermovate	0.05%	As dir	\$20	BC / IA covered
Betamethasone Dipropionate Glycol	Diprolene	0.05%	As dir	\$30	BC / IA covered
Class II/III-High Potency					
Amcinonide	Cyclocort	0.10%	As dir	\$20	BC / IA covered
Betamethasone Dipropionate	Diprosone	0.05%	As dir	\$20	BC / IA covered
Class IV/V-Moderate Pote	ncy				
Betamethasone Valerate	Betaderm/Betnovate	0.10%	As dir	\$15	BC / IA covered
<b>Mometasone Furoate</b>	Elocom	0.10%	As dir	\$30	BC / IA covered
Class VI/VII-Low Potency					
Hydrocortisone	Cortate	1.00%	As dir	\$15	BC / IA covered
Desonide	Desonate	0.05%	As dir	\$25	BC / IA covered
Acne Treatments (Prici	ng based on estimated	l typical usage for 90	days)		
<b>Tretinoin Cream</b>	Stieva-A (25g tube)	0.025%	As dir	\$20	SA req'd for BC, IA covered
Benzoyl Peroxide/ Clindamycin	Clindoxyl (45g tube)	5%/1%	As dir	\$45	SA req'd for BC, IA covered
Minocycline	Minocin	100mg	QD x 90 days	\$70	SA req'd for IA, BC covered
Adapalene	Differin (60g tube)	0.10%	As dir	\$145	IA covered but NC BC
Isotretinoin	Accutane	40mg	QD x 90 days	\$200	BC / IA covered

				90 Day Cost	
Generic Name	Brand name	Strength	Dosing	otherwise noted)	Coverage
Miscellaneous Topica	als				
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
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
IRON PREPARATION	DNS				
Iron Salt	Brand Name	Total Dose (mg/ tab or 5mL)	Elemental Iron (mg/tab or 5mL)	Cost of 90 day supply (100mg elemental iron/day)	Coverage
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 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

### **About This Document**

In the summer of 2011, Jayson worked as a pharmacy student with Tony in Peace River. 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

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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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Clinical Pharmacist

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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