

How does a patient obtain eligible MS drug prescriptions?

The attending MS Neurologist must write the prescription. After the patient has been approved for *MS Drug Coverage*, the required medication can be obtained from a local pharmacy.

Patients are encouraged to present their confirmation letter to the pharmacist with the prescription.

The pharmacist will request the 30 per cent co-payment to a maximum of \$25 per prescription.



Who has more information about this program?

Alberta neurologists who have agreed to participate in this program (termed “MS Neurologists”) have more information. They must apply on behalf of patients who wish to be considered for *MS Drug Coverage*.

Alberta Blue Cross provides administrative support for the *Alberta MS Drug Coverage* program. For a current list of participating MS Neurologists, please contact Alberta Blue Cross.

For more information on the MS Drug Coverage Program, please contact:

Alberta Blue Cross

- **780-498-8000** (Edmonton and area)
- **403-234-9666** (Calgary and area)
- **1-800-661-6995** (toll-free)
- e-mail via **www.ab.bluecross.ca**

Alberta Health and Wellness

- **780-427-1432** (Edmonton and area)
- Toll-free for the rest of Alberta
310-0000 and then **780-427-1432**
- Fax: **780-422-0102**
- Website: **www.health.alberta.ca**

Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, Alberta Division

- **780-463-1190** (Edmonton and area)
- **1-800-268-7582** (toll-free)



MS Drug Coverage



Supplementary health coverage
for Albertans

**Government
of Alberta** ■

Alberta Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Drug Coverage

Coverage for specific drugs used in the treatment of relapsing-remitting Multiple-Sclerosis (MS) is included in the Alberta government sponsored prescription drug coverage programs. This includes programs administered under the direction of Alberta Health and Wellness:

- *Non-Group Coverage* (for Albertans under 65 years of age) and
- *Coverage for Seniors* (for Albertans 65 years of age and older).

Albertans receiving benefits under either Alberta Employment and Immigration or Alberta Seniors and Community Supports programs are also eligible.

To be considered for *MS Drug Coverage* Albertans must be registered in one of these programs and, where applicable, have their premium accounts up-to-date.



Who is eligible?

MS Drug Coverage is available to residents of Alberta who are already eligible to receive benefits under the Alberta government sponsored programs listed above, and whose application for MS coverage has been approved by the MS Drug Review Panel. If not already on an Alberta government sponsored drug plan, residents of Alberta should call Alberta Blue Cross or Alberta Health and Wellness to get an application for *Non-Group Coverage*. Coverage will become effective on the first day of the fourth month after Alberta Health and Wellness receives your application.

What does this program cover?

The *MS Drug Coverage* program subsidizes the cost of specific prescription drugs used for treatment of Multiple Sclerosis, as listed in the *Alberta Health and Wellness Drug Benefit List*.

For Alberta Health and Wellness sponsored programs, the patient is responsible for 30 per cent of the cost to a maximum cost of \$25 per prescription. The program pays the remaining cost of each prescription.

What is an “MS Neurologist”?

An MS Neurologist is an Alberta neurologist who has agreed to participate in this program. Many neurologists across Alberta have agreed to do so. To find out who is participating, contact your neurologist or Alberta Blue Cross.

How does a patient apply for coverage for MS drugs?

Only neurologists identified for the purposes of this program as “MS Neurologists” may apply on behalf of patients.

An *MS Drug Coverage Application* must be completed by an MS Neurologist and submitted to Alberta Blue Cross for consideration by the Alberta MS Drug Review Panel. If the patient is not yet eligible for *Non-Group Coverage*, the application will not be forwarded for review until the effective date of coverage.

How is a patient approved for coverage?

The patient's *MS Drug Coverage Application* will be reviewed by the Alberta MS Drug Review Panel. This process may take a few weeks. If approved, the MS Neurologist and/or the patient will receive written confirmation of coverage along with the effective date of coverage. If the MS Neurologist changes the type of medication, a new application must be submitted. Coverage is effective for one year and must be renewed, through a re-application process.