

# Group Benefits Newsletter

Issue 21  
Spring  
2020

## REMINDER! 2019 Claims

All claim expenses, including cost plus expenses, incurred between January 1 and December 31, 2019, should be submitted as soon as possible, but no later than 3 months into the **new calendar year** (March 31, 2020). Claims received after March 31, 2020 for 2019 will be declined.

### **Alberta Senior Drug Benefits**

As of March 1, 2020, coverage for dependents who are not seniors that were previously covered under this program no longer are eligible. If any members are affected, they can contact **AHCIP at 780-420-1432**. Members do not need to contact their insurer regarding the change; eligible dependents prescription drugs will go through the group benefit plan.

### **Alberta Government Biosimilars Initiative**

Effective December 12, 2019 the Alberta government, under the Alberta Biosimilars Initiative, have changed the funding of select types of biologic drugs for patients using the provincial government drug plans. Adult patients (18 years of age and over) currently on an originator brand drug for which there is a biosimilar medication for their specific indication, are expected to switch to the biosimilar version before July 1, 2020 in order to maintain coverage through their Alberta government sponsored drug plan. More information can be found at <https://www.ab.bluecross.ca/pdfs/Patient-Info-Biosimilars.pdf>

Originator Brand Name Drugs Include:

~Enbrel

~Neupogen

~Copaxone

~Neulasta

~Lantus

~Remicade



### **PBI Out of Country (OOC) Carrier Change (OOC with other insurers will not be affected, current GWL, Manulife, Sunlife, etc.)**

On May 1, 2020 Out of Country coverage with PROBENEFITS INC. will change to a new carrier, Canada Life (formerly known as Great West Life). Out of Country coverage up until the carrier change will remain in place with RSA. There will be no change to premiums or policy coverage.

We will continue to provide you with updates as we move through this transition. More details will follow as we approach May 1, 2020.

### **COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**

In light of COVID-19, insurance carriers are making changes to travel and disability.



As the circumstances continue to evolve, you can expect there to be more changes. We strongly encourage you to check with your insurer's website for any updated information, and updated travel advisories on the Government of Canada's website. We will continue to provide our clients with information as it is received.



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