

# Suboxone® (Buprenorphine/Naloxone) Initiation in Emergency Departments Education – Patient Medication Funding Assistance Notes for Staff

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## Patient Medication Funding Assistance Notes for Staff

These notes are intended to support Social Workers and other staff members in Emergency Departments (EDs) and Urgent Care Centres (UCCs) who are providing care to patients who live with Opioid Use Disorder and are considering Opioid Agonist Treatment with Suboxone® (buprenorphine/naloxone).



While the cost of this drug dispensed in EDs and UCCs is covered by Alberta Health Services, patients should be aware that upon discharge, individuals are responsible for the costs of continued dosing in the community. There are a number of government and private insurance programs detailed below that can assist people with these costs.

1	<b>Alberta Government – Alberta Community and Social Services Application for Emergency Prescription(s)/Drugs</b>  Form EMP3854 (2012/09)
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To provide a process for one-time issuance of emergency prescription(s)/drugs that will address the urgency of the situation in an effective and efficient manner.

Only available from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month to the last day of the month. For example, if a patient applies for coverage on April 26<sup>th</sup>, the individual will only have coverage for the remaining 5 days of the month. After that, they he/she will have to re-apply.

Prescription coverage is specific to one pharmacy, as identified by the applicant on the application form. If Community and Social Services staff determine the



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applicant meets eligibility requirements, the worker will fax a drug authorization to the pharmacy.

The PDF form is available at:

<http://www.humanservices.alberta.ca/AWonline/documents/EMP3854.pdf>

<h1>2</h1>	<p><b>Alberta Government – Alberta Adult Health Benefit (AAHB) Application</b></p> <p>(Form AEHB3931 (2015/03))</p>
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You may be eligible if you:

- are pregnant
- have high ongoing prescription drug needs
- are a refugee or refugee claimant who is not receiving health benefits from any other source
- are leaving the [Income Support](#) or [Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped](#) (AISH) programs due to excess income from employment, self-employment or CPP-D benefits

To be eligible for the Alberta Adult Health Benefit, you and members of your family must:

- live in Alberta
- be Canadian citizens or have permanent resident status in Canada
- not be receiving health benefits from other government programs
- meet the income guidelines below



Your total net household income must fall below these maximum income guidelines based on family size.

**Table 1.** Maximum income guidelines based on family size

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<b>Family</b>	<b>Maximum income</b>
Single adult	\$16,580
1 adult + 1 child	\$26,023
1 adult + 2 children	\$31,010
1 adult + 3 children	\$36,325
1 adult + 4 children*	\$41,957
Couple, no children	\$23,212
Couple + 1 child	\$31,237
Couple + 2 children	\$36,634
Couple + 3 children	\$41,594
Couple + 4 children*	\$46,932



\*For each additional child, add \$4,973

Individuals must have a Social Insurance Number (SIN) and to have successfully submitted his/her personal taxes from the most recent year to Canada Revenue Agency.

More info and the PDF form are available at:

<https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-adult-health-benefit.aspx>

<h1>3</h1>	<p><b>Alberta Government – Application for Alberta Blue Cross Non-Group Coverage</b></p> <p>(Form AHC0201 (2017/08))</p>
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This coverage is for Albertans who want supplementary health insurance. Alberta Blue Cross administers Non-Group Coverage on behalf of Alberta Health. A monthly premium is charged for Non-Group coverage.

Eligibility: Must have active Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP) coverage. The dependents on your Alberta Blue Cross Non-Group coverage will be the same as the dependents covered on your AHCIP account.

Coverage begins on the first day of the fourth month following the date an individual's application is received.



Further information and the PDF form are available at:

<http://www.health.alberta.ca/services/drugs-non-group.html>

<h1>4</h1>	<p><b>Alberta Blue Cross – Privately Purchased Health Insurance Plans</b></p>
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For those who do have income, and therefore do not qualify for any of the programs above. Individuals can purchase private insurance from Alberta Blue Cross (ABC), which does cover buprenorphine / naloxone (Suboxone®). Patients will have to consider the monthly costs of the drug relative to the monthly costs of the insurance plans.



Further information available at: [www.ab.bluecross.ca](http://www.ab.bluecross.ca)



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**Government of Canada – Non-Insured Health Benefits for First Nations and Inuit Services**

Form EMP3854 (2012/09)

Suboxone® and generics are covered for First Nations and Inuit clients who are eligible for the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program. A pharmacist in the community will need to call the NIHB Program's Drug Exception Centre to have coverage set up over the phone.



Further information available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/services/non-insured-health-benefits-first-nations-inuit.html>