

Memorandum

Date: 28 February 2019

To: Primary Care Providers and Primary Care Networks

From: Dr. Peter Sargious, Medical Director, SCN – Diabetes, Obesity & Nutrition;
Co-Chair IPTP Clinical Advisory Council

Sue Conroy, Senior Provincial Director, Provincial Clinical Programs,
Co-Chair IPTP Clinical Advisory Council

RE: Provincial Insulin Pump Therapy Program

The Provincial Insulin Pump Therapy Program (IPTP) clinical criteria have undergone changes effective January 15, 2019.

The revised criteria emphasize safe, appropriate and responsible prescribing of Insulin Pump Therapy; patient safety and patient education; a patient centered approach; and shared understanding of patient/family support, self-care and accountability. Albertans who are suited to receive and would benefit from an insulin pump will continue to receive this treatment and equipment.

The IPTP was established in June 2013 and is delivered by Alberta Health Services (AHS) through authorized Adult and Pediatric Insulin Pump Therapy Clinics (total of ten clinics across province), with claims administration by Alberta Blue Cross and administrative support from Alberta Health. A patient must meet both the Insulin Pump Therapy Program Eligibility Criteria (developed by Alberta Health) and the Insulin Pump Therapy Program Clinical Criteria (developed by Alberta Health Services) in order to participate in the IPTP.

The program changes effective January 15, 2019 include:

- Patients with Type 3c diabetes – reduced endogenous insulin production for reasons other than autoimmune destruction of beta cells - will now be eligible for the program. As per current clinical criteria, patients with Type 2 diabetes are not eligible.
- Greater emphasis has been placed on education, demonstration of self-management and commitment to team engagement – with removal of the requirement to have achieved a target A1c level prior to being considered for eligibility.
- Some patients will no longer have to travel to the clinic for their annual reassessment, but may instead engage virtually with the clinic team (electronic, telephone, video). This change will make it easier for patients to complete the follow up required to demonstrate engagement with their pump physician and/or clinic.
- In addition, there will be an important change to the current patient categories within the program: “New IPT User” and “Existing IPT User”.
 - New IPT Users refer to those patients who underwent a full clinical assessment at an authorized Clinic and were determined to be eligible for pump and supplies. Existing IPT

Memorandum

Users refer to those individuals who had obtained an insulin pump elsewhere (paid out of pocket, through private insurance or other means), but get their supplies through the program. **This patient category will be eliminated.** Current “Existing IPT Users” will continue to receive their supplies through the program until their five year coverage period ends.

- Going forward, all patients will now be required to undergo the same intake process to participate in the program, which includes obtaining a clinical assessment. This change will increase patient safety, ensuring all patients are fit to receive an insulin pump and are fully trained in the pump's use.

The changes made to the Eligibility and Clinical Criteria are intended to provide better clarity for both prescribers and patients, as well as increased program safety, effectiveness and efficiency.

If you have any questions about the new IPTP clinical criteria or if you would like to refer one of your patients to the IPTP, please contact one of the IPTP Approved Clinics directly. Detailed information about the Insulin Pump Therapy Program such as the IPTP Clinics and clinical criteria can be found at www.ahs.ca/insulinpump.



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