



GREAT-WEST LIFE  
DRUG **SOLUTIONS**

## Therapeutic Class Pricing

Designed for our customers, Great-West's *DrugSolutions* program was implemented to provide insight into the changing drug landscape. The program provides valuable claims management solutions to help ensure drug plan costs are sustainable while ensuring plan members have access to comprehensive benefits.

### What is *Therapeutic Class Pricing*?

Designed to help keep the cost of drug plans affordable, *Therapeutic Class Pricing* sets reimbursement limits for medications within specific classes of drugs.

Within each drug class, there can be many medications that vary in price, prescribed to treat the same medical condition. In each class, a drug that has proven to provide effective treatment has been determined by Great-West Life to be the *reference drug*.

In determining the reference drug, Great-West considers a number of factors including clinical studies, safety data, utilization, approved indications, expert opinion, and cost. The maximum amount paid by your group benefits plan is limited to the cost of the reference drug.

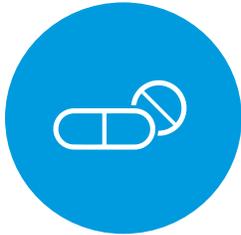
The medications selected as reference drugs have been proven effective in treating the same stage of a medical condition.

*Therapeutic Class Pricing* provides cost savings to your benefits plan and plan members without impacting health outcomes.



## Medications included in *Therapeutic Class Pricing*

There are five drug classes under *Therapeutic Class Pricing*. Drugs in each class are prescribed to treat one of three conditions: high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or issues related to stomach acid.



### Condition: Stomach acid

**Class: Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPI):** used to inhibit the production of gastric acid by the proton pump.



### Condition: High blood pressure

**Class: Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitors (ACEI):** used to lower blood pressure by blocking the production of angiotensin II, a hormone that increases blood pressure.

**Class: Angiotensin Receptor Blockers (ARB):** used to block the effects of angiotensin II, a hormone that increases blood pressure, thereby reducing blood pressure.



### Condition: High cholesterol

**Class: HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibitors (Statins):** used to decrease production of cholesterol by inhibiting HMG-CoA Reductase, an enzyme involved in cholesterol synthesis.

**Class: Dihydropyridine Calcium Channel Blockers (CCB):** used to reduce the amount of calcium entering blood vessel walls, thereby resulting in widening of the arteries and lowering blood pressure.

## How it works

Reference drug = Medication A

If a plan member is prescribed Medication A, when they submit the claim, they'll be reimbursed based on the plan design.

If a plan member is prescribed Medication B, they can:

- Have the prescription filled and be reimbursed up to the cost of Medication A and pay the difference out of pocket, or
- Ask their doctor to issue a prescription for Medication A instead. In some provinces, the pharmacist may be able to adapt the prescription to Medication A.

While *Therapeutic Class Pricing* is designed to limit reimbursement to a specified amount and help control costs, it is not intended to determine the most appropriate treatment. Plan members should talk to their care providers about their options and work with them to determine the best course of action.

We're committed to balancing the health needs of your plan members with the cost management needs of your business. To find out more about ways to effectively manage and sustain your group benefits plan, contact your Great-West group representative.

Great-West's **DrugSolutions**. Since 2012.



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