POLICY

TITLE
PROVINCIAL DRUG FORMULARY SYSTEM

SCOPE
Provincial

APPROVAL AUTHORITY
Alberta Health Services Executive Team

SPONSOR
Vice President, Clinical Support Services

PARENT DOCUMENT TITLE, TYPE AND NUMBER
Not applicable

NOTE: The first appearance of terms in bold in the body of this document (except titles) are defined terms – please refer to the Definitions section.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the information in this document, please contact the Policy & Forms Department at policy@ahs.ca. The Policy & Forms website is the official source of current approved policies, procedures, directives, standards, protocols and guidelines.

OBJECTIVES

- To establish the principles governing the Alberta Health Services Provincial Drug Formulary system.

- To provide authority to the Provincial Drugs and Therapeutics Committee (DTC) to manage the Provincial Drug Formulary process.

PRINCIPLES

Alberta Health Services must ensure safe and quality patient care. The Alberta Health Services Provincial Drug Formulary suite ("Formulary") will ensure the provision of safe and effective medications in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. A single Formulary, applicable across Alberta Health Services sites and with supplements for specific service areas, will address this need.

The Vice President & Medical Director, Northern Alberta and the Vice President, Clinical Support Services continue to authorize the Alberta Health Services Provincial Drugs and Therapeutics Committee (DTC) to assume responsibility for the development, maintenance and management of the Formulary and related processes.

A standardized approach to the ongoing review and maintenance of the Alberta Health Services Provincial Drug Formulary suite, based on evidence-informed reviews of drug efficacy, safety, and consideration of fiscal sustainability, ensures the provision of medication products and therapies that are the most medically appropriate and cost-effective to best meet the health needs of the patient population being served within Alberta Health Services settings.
APPLICABILITY

Compliance with this document is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, Students, Volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary).

ELEMENTS

1. Objectives of the Provincial Drug Formulary

   1.1 Enhancement of the quality and safety of medication selection and management, including mitigation of the risk of medication errors by limiting the choice of medications when multiple formulations are available.

   1.2 Support of clinical decision systems (e.g., parenteral manuals, care maps, electronic systems, policies/procedures on specific medications, educational training on medications to health care professionals) to improve safety and quality of patient care.

   1.3 Provision of a standardized and consistent choice of products, supported by related policies, across the province to ensure opportunity for equitable access to the best drug therapy by all Albertans.

   1.4 Promotion of rational medication use to improve patient care with consideration of cost effectiveness or comparative value.

   1.5 Demonstration of fiscal responsibility through balancing control of expenditures while ensuring quality care by investing in evidence-informed therapies based on establishing priorities and using a consistent framework, thus contributing to a sustainable health care system.

2. Role of the Provincial Drugs and Therapeutics Committee

   2.1 The Provincial Drugs and Therapeutics Committee shall:

       a) improve the efficiency of managing medication therapy for a specific disease or population in terms of quality, costs and sustainability (i.e., technical efficiency);

       b) improve the efficiency of managing/balancing the costs of medication use with other health care interventions used in health care (i.e., allocative efficiency); and

       c) make decisions that are aligned with the priorities of the organization and serve both the health interests of the broader patient population and the more restricted needs of selected patient populations.
DEFINITIONS

Formulary means a list of medications which are approved by the Drugs and Therapeutics Committee, for use in Alberta Health Services settings. Formulary medications are stocked in AHS pharmacies (contingent on the patient population being served) or are available upon request.

REFERENCES

- N/A

VERSION HISTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action Taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 21, 2018</td>
<td>Non-substantive change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Click here to enter a date</td>
<td>Optional: Choose an item</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>