



GREAT-WEST LIFE  
DRUG SOLUTIONS

## Therapeutic Class Pricing

The prescription drug coverage offered under your group benefits plan includes *Therapeutic Class Pricing*.

### What is Therapeutic Class Pricing?

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

A drug class contains different medications that can be prescribed to treat the same condition. The drugs vary in ingredients, manufacturer and price. Of the drugs in each class, we choose one as our reference drug. The reference drug is selected based on its proven success.

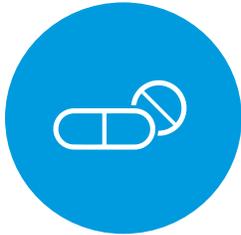
To decide on the reference drug, we consider a number of factors including clinical studies, safety data, utilization, approved indications, expert opinion, and cost. The maximum amount paid by your group benefits plan is limited to the cost of the reference drug.

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 you without impacting health outcomes.



## Therapeutic Class Pricing applies to three conditions

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



### 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 arteries and lowering blood pressure.

## How it works

Reference drug = Medication A

If you're prescribed Medication A, when you submit the claim, you'll be reimbursed based on your plan design.

If you're prescribed Medication B, you can:

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

Sometimes, patients can't take certain drugs due to medical reasons. For instance, they may be allergic to a dye or filler contained in a drug. If you can't take a reference drug, an exception can be requested by having your doctor complete a *Request for Reference Drug Exception* form. Contact our Group Customer Contact Services department at 1-800-957-9777 to request this form or to find out if the drug you've been prescribed falls under *Therapeutic Class Pricing*. If your request is approved, you'll be reimbursed up to the cost of the prescribed medication, based on your plan design.

Great-West is dedicated to working to keep drug plans affordable – and helping maintain your coverage now and into the future. For more information about your plan, contact your plan administrator.

