

PHARMACY *update*

JULY 2018

RECALL: VALSARTAN

On July 9th, Health Canada issued a recall for several drugs containing valsartan due to contamination with a potential carcinogen. The specific valsartan products affected by this recall are listed on the Health Canada Recalls & Safety Alerts webpage at <http://healthy Canadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2018/67202a-eng.php>.

For GSC plan members who have been dispensed valsartan from one of the affected manufacturers, pharmacies have the following options to handle replacement supplies:

1. Patient is switched to a new drug in the same or a different therapeutic class:

The claim can be submitted to GSC as a new prescription for a different molecular entity. An intervention code is not required.

2. Patient remains on valsartan:

The original claim submitted to GSC is reversed and resubmitted with the original service date **only for the quantity already consumed by the patient** to maintain accuracy of the dispensing record. A new claim for a different manufacturer not affected by the recall (generic or brand) is dispensed and submitted to GSC. The returned product is sent back to the manufacturer for credit.

OR

The original claim submitted to GSC is not reversedⁱ. A replacement claim for valsartan from a different manufacturer not affected by the recall (generic or brand) is dispensed. The replacement supply in this case should not be charged to GSC and instead the manufacturer of the recalled supply would be charged.

ⁱ The appropriate recall documentation is noted in the patient's record.

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