

# Informulary

GREAT NEWS ABOUT YOUR DRUG PLAN!

September 2019

## Update: Recent changes to the Reformulary® related to oral anti-coagulants

The Reformulary is a curated drug list based on the advice of an expert committee of doctors and pharmacists, referred to as the Reformulary Expert Committee. Our Committee meets monthly to review and evaluate new drugs as they come to market, and recommends placement of the drugs on the Reformulary. The Committee also reviews existing classes of drugs when new evidence emerges, and sometimes recommends changes to the placement of those drugs based on the evidence. The Committee recently reviewed the class of drugs called Direct Oral Anti-Coagulants (DOACs), as well as certain anti-platelet drugs.

### Review of Direct Oral Anti-Coagulants (DOACs)

DOACs are a class of anticoagulant drugs taken to treat or prevent blood clots; these drugs are often referred to as 'blood thinners'. They were approved for use instead of warfarin, a long-standing, effective drug, as an oral medication and are prescribed for patients with certain heart conditions or blood clotting issues in the legs or lungs.

The Canadian Cardiovascular Society and American Heart Association guidelines recommend these medications over Vitamin K antagonists such as warfarin. Based on the updated guidelines, our Expert Committee recently undertook a comprehensive class review DOAC class medications.

The research findings include:

- DOACs are equal to or better than warfarin, with equal or less major bleeding.
- DOACs are more convenient for patients because they do not require regular monitoring.
- Anti-platelet drugs, ticagrelor and prasugrel have been shown to be more effective than clopidogrel but with a small increased major bleeding risk (in most patients with acute coronary syndrome).



### How will this affect my coverage?

As a result of the Committee's review and recommendation, Reformulary Group has removed quantity (time) limitations related to DOACs and certain anti-platelet drugs; these drugs include:

#### DOACs/Anti-coagulant drugs

- ELIQUIS (apixaban)
- Generic dabigatran (dabigatran etexilate mesilate)
- PRADAXA (dabigatran etexilate mesilate)
- LIXIANA (edoxaban tosylate)
- XARELTO (rivaroxaban)

#### Anti-platelet drugs

- EFFIENT (prasugrel hydrochloride)
- BRILINTA (ticagrelor)



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## Where can I look up my coverage?



Use Reformulary's DrugFinder® tool, [www.drugfinder.ca](http://www.drugfinder.ca)

DrugFinder is available via desktop and mobile app to search the Reformulary and help you make smart drug choices. If your plan is powered by Reformulary®, your plan will have a DrugFinder® Company Access Code – simply set up an account and enter the Code in the field provided.

Or contact [askus@reformulary.com](mailto:askus@reformulary.com)



## Did you know?

Reformulary Group launched Cannabis Standard™ in March – the first evidence-based medical cannabis formulary. It uses evidence to help patients determine if they are a good candidate for medical cannabis and find the right product for their specific conditions and symptoms.

For more information please visit:

[www.cannabisstandard.com](http://www.cannabisstandard.com)



[reformulary.com](http://reformulary.com)