

# ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES (AHS) CORRECTIONS DRUG FORMULARY: *IT'S ABOUT TIME!*

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The AHS Corrections Drug Formulary is the result of the collaborative work of the AHS Pharmacy Therapeutics Drug Utilization and Evaluation (DUE) team and the multidisciplinary AHS Corrections Formulary Working Group (WG) comprised of physicians, pharmacists, nurses and administrative leads. Coordination of the work involved in the creation of the AHS Corrections Drug Formulary, as well as review of specific drug classes, was undertaken by the applicant.

The scope of the AHS Corrections Drug Formulary is limited to inmates at any one of Alberta's eight adult Correctional/Remand Centres and two Young Offender Centres. Previously health care in these centers was external to AHS and under the authority of the Alberta Solicitor General's Office. The AHS Corrections Formulary was created to provide consistent access to appropriate treatments within all provincial health care delivery systems, reduce duplication of effort in maintaining formularies, focus on drug quality and safety, and realize financial savings through contract consolidation and drug use optimization while addressing the specific needs of the inmate patient population.

The AHS Corrections Drug Formulary is based on the AHS Provincial Drug Formulary in use in acute care facilities. Drug selection for use in correctional facilities aligns with the considerations outlined in the AHS Corrections Formulary Guiding Principles document developed *a priori* by the Corrections WG, as well as with an environmental scan of Canadian and US correctional facilities' formularies and the review of utilization patterns of medications listed on these correctional facilities formularies.

Section reviews were performed by the DUE team utilizing the AHS Corrections Formulary Guiding Principles document. These reviews were sent to medical, nursing, pharmacy and administrative stakeholders in Corrections for their input. All feedback was collected using an online survey tool and discussed at AHS Corrections Formulary WG meetings. All WG recommendations were sent to the AHS Provincial Drugs and Therapeutics Committee (DTC) for final recommendation and subsequent approval by AHS Executive.

Implementation was performed in stages and AHFS classes were implemented as they were approved. Formulary tools such as the AHS Corrections Drug Formulary Supplement, the non-formulary (NF) order assessment algorithm – AHS Correctional Facilities, the NF/restricted drug request forms can be accessed through the Provincial Drug Formulary webpage on the AHS intranet website.

As of September 2014, 98% of the 3,400 drugs on the AHS Provincial Drug Formulary have been reviewed for listing on the AHS Corrections Drug Formulary, 70% have been approved by DTC and implemented. The remaining 30% are either drugs that are under review or awaiting DTC approval. An AHS Correction Drug Formulary online database is under development and should be ready for use in fall 2014.



## **CSHP 2015 Goal**

**Goal 3:** *Increase the extent to which hospital and related healthcare setting pharmacists actively apply evidence-based methods to the improvement of medication therapy.*

## **CSHP 2015 Objective Highlighted**

**Objective 3.2:** *In 100% of hospitals and related healthcare settings, pharmacists will be actively involved in the development and implementation of evidence-based drug therapy protocols and/or order sets.*