



NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS PHARMACY POLICY CHANGES: NEW PHARMACIST INITIATED TREATMENT POLICY & NALOXONE COVERAGE

1. New Pharmacist Initiated Treatment Policy

Effective June 1, 2016, the Pharmacist Initiated Treatment Policy replaces the Pharmacist Initiated Prescribing Policy (section 3.12 of the NIHB Provider Guide for Pharmacy Benefits). Under this new policy, the NIHB Program will accept claims, which do not require prior approval, for pharmacist initiated treatment to treat the following conditions:

| Condition | Eligible Treatments |
|--|---|
| Allergic conjunctivitis | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ophthalmic products listed in AHFS class 48:10.32, 52:02.00 and 52:92.00 of NIHB Drug Benefit List (DBL)nedocromil |
| Allergic rhinitis | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Antihistamine drugs listed in AHFS class 4:00.00 of NIHB DBLNasal corticosteroids listed in AHFS class 52:08.08 of NIHB DBLNasal solutions listed in AHFS class 12:08.08, 48:10.32 and 52:02.00 of NIHB DBL |
| Constipation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Products listed in AHFS class 56:12.00 of NIHB DBL |
| Emergency contraception and/or follow-up oral contraception (up to three months' supply) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Levonorgestrel 0.75mg tabletsContraceptives listed in AHFS class 68:12.00 of NIHB DBL |
| Lice | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Pediculides listed in AHFS class 84:04.12 of the NIHB DBL |
| Nausea and vomiting in pregnancy | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Doxylamine succinate, pyridoxine, 10mg & 10mg tablets |
| Prenatal vitamins and prenatal folic acid | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Multivitamins (prenatal) listed in NIHB DBLFolic acid 1mg tablets and 5mg tablets |
| Risk of opioid overdose | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Naloxone 0.4mg/ mL one mL injections |
| Smoking Cessation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Nicotine replacement products listed in AHFS class 12:92.00 of NIHB DBLVarenicline 0.5mg and 1mg tabletsBupropion (Zyban) 150mg SR tablets |
| Vaginal candidiasis | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Vaginal preparations of anti-fungals listed in AHFS class 84.04.08 of NIHB DBL |

Note: Additions to this list of conditions will be communicated by newsletter and updates will be brought to the Provider Guide for Pharmacy Benefits.

Schedule I drugs listed above will be reimbursed where prescribing is permitted by provincial and territorial legislation. Please refer to your provincial or territorial regulatory authorities for extended scope of practice details: this section may not apply to your situation.

The NIHB Program will reimburse claims for Schedule II, III and unscheduled drugs for the conditions listed in the table above, on the basis of either a valid pharmacist prescription as per jurisdictional legislation or a pharmacist’s documented recommendation. The NIHB Program requires providers to maintain documentation related to claims submitted as a result of a pharmacist recommendation; at a minimum, this must include the following information:

- a) date;
- b) name, and address or date of birth of the patient;
- c) proper name, common name, or brand name of the prescribed drug, and the quantity thereof;
- d) dosage;
- e) amount prescribed or recommended; and
- f) signature of the licensed pharmacist.

In jurisdictions where the condition and/or associated treatments are part of legislation and regulations related to pharmacist prescribing, pharmacists must adhere to the requirements under the provincial or territorial regulations.

Claims submitted according to this policy will be reimbursed the drug cost and dispensing fee according to NIHB reimbursement policies. Documentation must be available for review on audit. NIHB does not compensate pharmacists for client assessment services.

2. Naloxone Coverage

To improve access to treatment for opioid overdose, naloxone 0.4mg/mL 1mL products are now an open benefit in the DBL. The following DINs are included:

| Drug | DIN | MFR |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Naloxone 0.4mg/mL one mL ampoule | 02148706 | SDZ |
| Naloxone 0.4mg/mL one mL ampoule | 02382482 | ALV |
| Naloxone 0.4mg/mL one mL ampoule | 02382601 | SDZ |
| Naloxone 0.4mg/mL one mL vial | 02393034 | OMG |

Where pharmacies are providing ancillary supplies to support safe naloxone administration and overdose management, providers can bill the cost of the naloxone and ancillary supplies as a “naloxone kit” under pseudo-DIN 09991460. Accepted contents in a naloxone kit include:

- 2 x one mL ampoules or vials of naloxone 0.4mg/ mL
- 2 alcohol swabs

- 2 safety syringes
- 1 rescue breathing mask
- 2 ampule breakers (if ampoules dispensed)
- 2 pairs of gloves

The ancillary items should not be billed separately from the naloxone. Please note that all claims are subject to audit verification. NIHB will reimburse for naloxone when prescribed or recommended by a pharmacist in accordance with the Pharmacist-Initiated Treatment Policy.

Where NIHB clients are eligible to receive naloxone or a naloxone kit through other programs, providers are expected to coordinate claims per usual policy.