

NEW INFORMATION

Talwin (pentazocine) Delisted from DBL

Effective October 15, 2013, Talwin 50 mg tablets, and Talwin 30 mg/ml injectable, were removed from the Drug Benefit List (DBL) and became exclusions to the NIHB Program. The delisting is based on the recommendation of NIHB's external advisory committee, the Drugs and Therapeutics Advisory Committee (DTAC), and is based on the lack of evidence of clinical benefit, and an increased risk of adverse effects associated with the drug. Prescribers with clients currently receiving NIHB coverage of oral pentazocine received a letter in advance, advising them of the listing change. Clients who received NIHB coverage for Talwin 50 mg tablets in the three (3) months preceding October 15, 2013 were offered coverage (grandfathered) for an additional three (3) months to provide prescribers sufficient time to switch the client to an alternate therapy. An additional three months of coverage (for a total of six months) may be authorized on a case-by-case basis, with no further authorizations permitted thereafter.

Acetaminophen Dose Limit Change

Effective October 15, 2013, the dose limit for acetaminophen was modified. The previous limit was 12 tablets/day (or 1200 tablets per 100-day period). The acetaminophen content per tablet counted ranges from 300 mg to 500 mg. The limit is now calculated based on the total milligrams of acetaminophen dispensed to a client and set at 3600 mg/day, or 360 g over a 100-day period. The limit continues to apply to all plain acetaminophen and opioid containing acetaminophen products and equals approximately 11 tablets/day of acetaminophen 325 mg, 12 tablets/day of acetaminophen 300 mg with codeine, or seven tablets/day of acetaminophen 500 mg. Requests to exceed this dose limit will be considered on appeal only. This change is intended to promote client safety and is based on the recommendation of NIHB's external advisory committee, the DTAC.

Metadol (methadone) Criteria Change

Effective November 18, 2013, the limited use (LU) criteria for Metadol was changed to the following:

- Prescriber is registered with Health Canada and is eligible to prescribe methadone for the management of pain; AND
- For the management of moderate to severe cancer pain or chronic non-cancer pain, after failure of at least two long-acting opioids; OR
- For the management of pain in palliative care patients.

Note Pharmacists may only dispense a maximum supply of 30 days at one (1) time.

Providers are reminded that Metadol is only to be used in the treatment of pain. For opioid addiction, providers must dispense compounded methadone (pseudo-DIN 00908835) or Methadose®, in accordance with provincial regulations.

Certain Dosages of Vitamin B12 Delisted

Effective January 13, 2014, oral vitamin B12 products of 25 mcg, 50 mcg and 100 mcg will be delisted from the Drug Benefit List (DBL) and will become exclusions to the NIHB Program. Higher oral doses of vitamin B12 are required to be effective to treat vitamin B12 deficiency. Oral long acting products of vitamin B12 are not recommended. Dosages of 250 mcg and 1000 mcg of vitamin B12 will continue to be covered by the NIHB Program.

Exclusion of generic forms of OxyContin (long acting oxycodone) by the NIHB Program

The NIHB Program only provides coverage for one (1) long acting oxycodone product, OxyNeo, which is an exception under the Program. Requests for coverage are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

In January 2013, generic versions of OxyContin were made exclusions to the NIHB Program. Pharmacy providers must not submit claims for any generic version of OxyContin. Any approved claims for OxyNeo must be submitted using the DIN issued on the confirmation letter in order to be fully compensated by the NIHB Program.

REMINDERS

Coordination of Benefits (COB)

As a reminder, NIHB clients that have alternate health coverage are required to access that coverage prior to claiming benefits under the NIHB Program. The NIHB Program will then coordinate payment with the other payer on eligible benefits.

2013 Updated Drug Benefit List and Drug Benefit List Updates

Health Canada maintains a Drug Benefit List (DBL) of NIHB eligible drugs that are to be used in a home or ambulatory setting. The DBL indicates to prescribers and pharmacy providers which drug products are eligible NIHB benefits. The DBL encourages the most optimal and cost-effective drug therapy for NIHB clients. It is recommended that prescribers and pharmacy providers regularly review the list to ensure they are aware of the drugs eligible for NIHB coverage. The DBL is published annually, and changes made during the year will continue to be communicated via regular NIHB DBL Updates. Both the DBL and DBL Updates may be viewed on the NIHB Claims Services Provider Website (select Pharmacy link "Drug Benefit List" or "Benefit Updates").

The 2013 version of the DBL is also available on the Health Canada website at: www.healthcanada.gc.ca/dbl

**NIHB Program and Express Scripts Canada Contact
Information can be found on the last page of this
NIHB Newsletter**

Drug Prior Approval Requests

New prior approvals (PA) and requests to amend an approved PA are obtained from the Drug Exception Centre (DEC). Certain drug products listed as limited use benefits on the Drug Benefit List (DBL) may be considered by the NIHB Program for PA. To obtain a PA, the provider must have the client's information (first name, last name, DOB, client's registration number) prescriber name, prescriber number, and provider number along with reference to the prescription. Other drug products not listed may also be considered as an exception on a case-by-case basis. The DEC will send an *Exception or Limited Use Drug Request Form* to the prescriber. Dependent on the prescriber's compliancy in providing the necessary information an approval may be granted. When approval/denial is provided, a confirmation of approval or denial letter is faxed or mailed to the provider.

Contact information for the DEC can be found on the contact information page of this NIHB Newsletter.

Note Express Scripts Canada is receiving PA and post-approval requests from pharmacy providers. Please be informed that Express Scripts Canada does not process these requests. All PA requests/inquiries must be sent to the DEC for adjudication.

Prior Approval Transfers

After an ownership change Express Scripts Canada will transfer an outstanding PA in our adjudication system to the newly assigned provider number.

Note PA transfers are only applicable to ownership changes.

Modified Claim Return Process

Express Scripts Canada is committed to protecting personal information. Privacy affects all aspects of our business from how we communicate with you to how we handle personal identifiable information as well as personal health information. To protect personal information, effective November 1, 2012, Express Scripts Canada introduced changes to our manual claims processing service. NIHB claim forms are no longer returned to the provider due to missing and/or incorrect information received. A Provider Return Letter will be faxed or mailed to the provider referencing the client name and date of service for the claim(s) received, and the details of why the claim(s) was not adjudicated and not processed. **A newly completed claim form should be returned to Express Scripts Canada with the updated or missing information.** Please fax or mail your completed claim form to:

Toll Free Fax No.: 1-855-486-8599

Mail: Express Scripts Canada, NIHB Pharmacy Claims,
P.O. Box 1353, Station K, Toronto, ON M4P 3J4

Claim Corrections and Adjustments for Claims Older than 30 Days

Claims that require reversal, corrections, and/or adjustments more than 30 days after the date of service (DOS) must be submitted manually on the copy of the NIHB Pharmacy Claim Statement, up to one (1) year from the original DOS.

Ensure the professional fee, corrections and/or any other change request is clearly identified and the claim line in question is clearly identified.

Payment Errors

If there is a payment error, providers should:

- Send a copy of their NIHB Pharmacy Claim Statement indicating the payment error and submit a copy of it to Express Scripts Canada, including the date of service (DOS) in question with the client name and client identification number.

GO Green, GO Paperless!

Make e-mail your first choice of communication delivery!

Stay informed with real time (same day) e-mail delivery of Health Canada's NIHB Program.

- ...No more tying up the fax machine's day-to-day activity.
- ...Save and share your communications within your office network at the click of your mouse.
- ...Reduce office space (e.g., filing cabinets) and costs associated with business supplies (e.g., paper, printer, fax machine, etc).

ONE EASY STEP... Place a verbal request to the Provider Claims Processing Call Centre at 1-888-511-4666.

Importance of Most Current Provider Information

It is important that the most current provider information is provided to Express Scripts Canada, otherwise providers may not receive new and important information from NIHB and Express Scripts Canada regarding NIHB coverage, claims submission procedures, etc.

A verbal request is accepted at the Provider Claims Processing Call Centre to change the following important provider information:

- E-mail address, fax number, phone number, and/or *correction* to your current address.

All other changes to provider information must be completed on the *Modification to Pharmacy/Medical Supplies & Equipment Provider Information Form*, signed by the director or owner of the business, and submitted by fax or mail as indicated on the form.

These types of changes include:

- Usual and Customary (U&C) Dispensing Fee, new complete address (e.g., moved), bank information, and/or name and/or ownership of your business.

The *Modification to Pharmacy/Medical Supplies & Equipment Provider Information Form* can be downloaded from the NIHB Claims Services Provider Website or contact the Provider Claims Processing Call Centre to request a copy.

NIHB PROGRAM AND EXPRESS SCRIPTS CANADA CONTACT INFORMATION

Please have your Provider Number readily available when contacting the Provider Claims Processing Call Centre

EXPRESS SCRIPTS CANADA

Provider Claims Processing Call Centre

Please have your Provider Number readily available

Inquiries and Password Resets

1-888-511-4666

Pharmacy Extended Hours

Monday to Friday:

6:30 a.m. to 12 a.m. Eastern Time

Saturday, Sunday and Statutory Holidays:

8 a.m. to 12 a.m. Eastern Time

MS&E Extended Hours

Monday to Friday:

6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Excluding Statutory Holidays

Pharmacy and MS&E Claims

Mail Pharmacy claims to:

Express Scripts Canada

NIHB Pharmacy Claims

P.O. Box 1353, Station K, Toronto, ON M4P 3J4

Mail MS&E claims to:

Express Scripts Canada

NIHB MS&E Claims

P.O. Box 1365, Station K, Toronto, ON M4P 3J4

Pharmacy/MS&E Provider Agreements

Fax Completed

Pharmacy/MS&E Provider Agreements to:

Toll Free Fax No.: 1-855-622-0669

Other Correspondence

Mail to:

Express Scripts Canada

5770 Hurontario St., 10th Floor,

Mississauga, ON L5R 3G5

NIHB Forms

Download from the

NIHB Claims Services Provider Website or contact
the Provider Claims Processing Call Centre

www.provider.express-scripts.ca

NIHB PROGRAM PHARMACY BENEFITS

Drug Exception Centre (DEC)

PRIOR APPROVALS

Pharmacy Benefits

1-800-580-0950 (English)

1-800-281-5027 (French)

Fax No.: 1-877-789-4379

Health Canada Regional Offices

PRIOR APPROVALS

MS&E Benefits

Alberta	1-800-232-7301
Atlantic	1-800-565-3294
Manitoba	1-800-665-8507
Northwest Territories/Nunavut	1-888-332-9222
Ontario	1-800-881-3921
Quebec	1-877-483-1575
Saskatchewan	1-866-885-3933
Yukon	1-866-362-6717

INQUIRIES **Pharmacy/MS&E Benefits**

Alberta	1-780-495-2694
	1-800-232-7301
Atlantic	1-902-426-2656
	1-800-565-3294
Manitoba	1-800-665-8507
Northwest Territories/Nunavut	1-888-332-9222
Ontario	1-800-640-0642
Quebec	1-877-483-1575
	1-514-283-1575
Saskatchewan	1-306-780-8294
	1-866-885-3933
Yukon	1-866-362-6717

British Columbia First Nations

Health Authority

PRIOR APPROVALS

MS&E Benefits

British Columbia	1-888-299-9222
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PHARMACY/MS&E INQUIRIES

British Columbia	1-604-666-3331
	1-800-317-7878