



NEW INFORMATION

Coverage Status Change for Nabilone

Effective June 24, 2019, nabilone is an Open Benefit for adult clients over 18 years old. In line with the maximum recommended daily dose outlined in the product monograph, the NIHB Program has a dose limit of six (6) milligrams per day. A 30-day dispense coverage limit applies.

Additions to the NIHB Client Safety Program

Effective June 24, 2019, pregabalin and nabilone are added to the NIHB Client Safety Program (NIHB-CSP). More information about the NIHB-CSP can be found at canada.ca/nihb > [all related publications](#) > [drug benefits](#).

Non-medicated Emollient for Atopic Dermatitis in Children

Effective June 24, 2019, non-medicated emollient cream base is a Limited Use benefit for the treatment of atopic dermatitis in clients age 18 and under, using pDIN 99000385. Clients are eligible for up to 450 grams per month. If a client requires a larger quantity, please contact the Drug Exception Centre for prior approval. Please note, non-medicated emollient creams are subject to short-term dispensing policy and reimbursement is based upon the unit cost per gram of the largest commercially available pack size (e.g. 450 g).

Benzodiazepine Dose Limit Policy

For client safety, the NIHB Program limits the maximum dose of benzodiazepines that may be reimbursed per month for a client. The dose limit is being gradually lowered. Additionally, the NIHB Program has a 30-day maximum dispense policy for all benzodiazepines.

This dose limit is being further reduced to 30 mg DEQ per day, implemented region-by-region, as follows:

- September 17, 2018: Saskatchewan and Quebec
- November 13, 2018: Atlantic Region
- February 11, 2019: Alberta Region
- May 13, 2019: Ontario and Northern Region
- August 12, 2019: Manitoba and Pacific Region

Providers with clients who exceed the limit will need to call the Drug Exception Centre for prior approval. Abrupt discontinuation of benzodiazepines is not advised. For guidance on tapering and a chart of dose equivalencies, please refer to Appendix B-6 of the [2010 Canadian Guideline for Safe and Effective Use of Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain](#).

Change to Extemporaneous Mixture Dispensing Fee Policy

The eligible dispensing fees for extemporaneous mixtures have been updated to reflect situations where the dispensing pharmacy has purchased extemporaneous mixtures prepared by another pharmacy. In this case, the dispensing pharmacy is eligible to submit **up to one usual and customary dispensing fee**, regardless of the type of extemporaneous mixture. Note that this is different from extemporaneous mixtures prepared in house by the pharmacy. See the table below. The full updated policy is available in the [NIHB Guide for Pharmacy Benefits](#).

Category	Eligible NIHB Dispensing Fee (DF)*
Mixtures purchased from another pharmacy	
All categories of mixtures	Up to 1x DF
Mixtures prepared by the dispensing pharmacy	
External creams, ointments, lotions, powders	Up to 1.5x DF
Internal liquids, powders	Up to 1.75x DF
Sterile injections, eye/ear mixtures, suppositories	Up to 2x DF

*DF = usual and customary dispensing fee, up to the regional maximum approved by NIHB.

Non-prescription Treatment Recommendation Policy Replaces the Pharmacist-Initiated Treatment Policy

Effective June 24, 2019, the Pharmacist-Initiated Treatment Policy will be replaced by the Non-prescription Treatment Recommendation Policy. The wording of this policy has been updated to emphasize that it is applicable in all jurisdictions, regardless of the pharmacist scope of practice. The full list of conditions and associated medications is the same as those previously eligible under the Pharmacist-Initiated Treatment Policy, and is available online in the NIHB Guide for Pharmacy Benefits.

Non-Prescription Treatment Recommendation Policy

The NIHB Program will reimburse claims for non-prescription drugs (Schedule II, III and unscheduled) for the conditions listed when recommended by a pharmacist.

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:

- date
- name and address, or date of birth of the patient
- proper name, common name, or brand name of the prescribed drug and the quantity thereof
- dosage
- quantity recommended
- signature of the licensed pharmacist, including pharmacist's ID number

Claims submitted according to this policy will be reimbursed for the drug cost and dispensing fee according to NIHB reimbursement policies. All claims are subject to claims verification. The NIHB Program does not compensate pharmacists for client assessment services.

REMINDERS

Naloxone

Naloxone injection kits and nasal sprays are open benefits. No prescription is required for coverage. Providers can document a recommendation, as per the Non-Prescription Treatment Recommendation Policy, and bill directly to NIHB.

Coordination of Benefits with Ontario Public Plans (OHIP+)

The Government of Ontario recently announced changes to eligibility for drug coverage for children and youth who are covered under a private benefit plan. The [OHIP+ Redesign](#) website notes, "patients eligible for NIHB can receive benefits through NIHB as they did prior to the introduction of OHIP+ on January 1, 2018, or they may continue to access benefits through OHIP+, if they are not covered by a private plan." The NIHB Program's policies and practices have not changed. This means that NIHB clients who are age 24 or under may continue to access drug coverage from either NIHB or, if they are eligible, the OHIP+ program.

Changes to Pediatric Nutrition Coverage

Two changes to pediatric nutrition products come into effect on June 26, 2019. Certain infant formulas will be added as Limited Use benefits, and will be covered when medically necessary until one year of age. Pediatric multivitamins will now be covered until the age of 19 and the list of multivitamins has been expanded. See the [Drug Benefit List](#) (June 2019) for details.

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.

Express Scripts Canada Provider Claims Processing Call Centre will only accept a verbal request 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)
- payment 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 provider.express-scripts.ca/pharmacy/forms, or contact the Express Scripts Canada Provider Claims Processing Call Centre to request a copy.

NIHB PROGRAM AND EXPRESS SCRIPTS CANADA CONTACT INFORMATION

EXPRESS SCRIPTS CANADA

Provider Claims Processing Call Centre

Please have your Provider Number readily available

1 (888) 511-4666

Pharmacy Extended Hours

Monday to Friday:
6:30 a.m. to midnight Eastern Time
Saturday, Sunday and Statutory Holidays:
8 a.m. to midnight 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

Fax Pharmacy and MS&E claims to:

1 (888) 249-6098

Provider Relations Department

Fax completed provider agreements to:

1 (855) 622-0669

Other Correspondence

Mail to:

Express Scripts Canada
5770 Hurontario St., 10th Floor,
Mississauga, ON L5R 3G5

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

First Nations and Inuit Health Branch 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/Yukon	1 (888) 332-9222
Ontario	1 (800) 881-3921
Quebec	1 (877) 483-1575
Saskatchewan	1 (866) 885-3933

FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AUTHORITY

PRIOR APPROVALS

British Columbia* (fax number) 1 (888) 299-9222

INQUIRIES

British Columbia* 1 (800) 317-7878

**For First Nation residents in British Columbia only.
For non-residents and Inuit, contact the Alberta region.*

NIHB Forms

Download from the NIHB Claims Services Provider Website or contact the Provider Claims Processing Call Centre.