

### NEW INFORMATION

#### Updated Prior Approval Forms

Priority processing is given to prior approval (PA) requests for clients being discharged from the hospital and those on palliative care. PA forms have been revised to include the following two options: Expected Date of Discharge from Health Care Facility and Palliative Care Client (with checkboxes for each appearing at the top of the form). Providers can now select the appropriate box when MS&E items are requested for these clients to ensure these prior approvals are prioritized accordingly. The revised forms are available at [provider.express-scripts.ca](http://provider.express-scripts.ca).

Prior approval forms must be completed by providers and should not be sent to the prescriber/recommender (e.g., physicians, nurse practitioner) for completion. Please note that the Program does not cover prescriber/recommender fees for completing a prior approval form.

#### Special Authorization

A special authorization (SA) is a longer term approval that may be provided for items that have a set price and frequency guideline. SAs reduce the need for providers to submit PA requests, such as when a client with a chronic illness requires regular supplies (e.g., incontinence items or ostomy supplies).

Once the SA is approved, providers will receive a confirmation letter from Express Scripts Canada with the information below to confirm coverage:

- Item code
- Item name
- Eligibility
- Start date
- End date

Claims against the SA are submitted directly to Express Scripts Canada for the approved duration without requiring a PA. When a SA number has been assigned, a PA number **should not** be included in the claim to ensure correct adjudication.

A PA will be required when the requested price and/or quantity exceeds the NIHB frequency guidelines.

#### Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Benefits – Price File

A price file has been created for CPAP equipment and supplies. Regional Fee Guides for CPAP and related supplies are available on the Express Scripts Canada website under [MS&E Price Files](#). Special authorizations (SA) can now be used for CPAP supplies. Once an SA is approved, providers can send claims directly to Express Scripts Canada for the approved duration.

#### Eye Prosthesis – Price File

A price file has been created for eye prosthesis and associated service fees. Regional Fee Guides for eye prosthesis are available on the Express Scripts Canada website under [MS&E Price Files](#).

#### Lubricating Jelly – Pricing and Change of Listing

As of May 28, 2018, a PA will no longer be required for lubricating jelly. A new benefit code was also created for lubricating jelly single use packet.

Name of Product	Item Number	Frequency Guidelines	Maximum Price
Lubricating jelly/packet, single use	99400919	400 packets per 3 months	\$0.11 per packet (based on a 3 g single use packet)
Lubricating jelly, 1 tube	99400435	12 tubes per 3 months	\$3.49 per tube (based on a 114 g tube)

Both lubricating jellies can be claimed in conjunction with the following items:

Name of Product	Item Number
Indwelling catheters	99400420
Regular intermittent catheter	99400421
Specialized intermittent catheter	99401154
Irrigation catheter	99400423
Other enteral feeding supplies, nasogastric tube	99400286

For PAs received before May 28, 2018, providers should continue to use the item number(s) listed in the PA authorization. However, providers must use the new item number(s) for subsequent claims.

## Bathing and Toileting Aids - Price File

As of April 16, 2018, the NIHB Program has established price limits in the Saskatchewan Region for the items below that currently do not require a PA. Please note, a PA will be required for items above frequency guideline and/or maximum price.

Name of Product	Item Number	Prior Approval	Frequency Guideline	Maximum Price
Elevated (raised) toilet seat (standard)	99400298	No	3 years	\$45.00
Grab Bar Tub (non-permanent)	99400649	No	3 years	\$56.00
Mat, tub, non-slip	99400301	No	2 years	\$19.00

## Change in Listing Status for Selected Benefits

PAs will no longer be required for selected medical supplies and equipment when they are within Program frequency and price limits. This change was implemented in Saskatchewan on April 16, 2018. The items covered by this change are listed below:

Name of Product	Item Number	Prior Approval (new)	Frequency Guideline	Maximum Price
Bath Chair	99400295	No	5 years	\$55.00
Commode, Standard	99400296	No	5 years	\$72.00
Elevated Raised Toilet Seat with Arms	99400299	No	3 years	\$59.00
Floor to Ceiling Pole	99400321	No	Lifetime	\$190.00
Grab Bar-Bed Purchase	99400322	No	10 years	\$105.00
Safety Frame for Toilet	99400302	No	5 years	\$43.00
Tub Transfer Bench	99400304	No	5 years	\$93.00
Walker Standard Purchase	99400338	No	5 years	\$62.00
Walker Wheeled Purchase	99400340	No	5 years	\$360.00
Wheel Chair Manual Purchase	99200349	No	5 years	\$762.00

Before dispensing any item listed above, providers are to contact the Express Scripts Canada Provider Claims Processing Call Centre at 1 (888) 511-4666 to confirm the client and benefit eligibility. Once eligibility has been confirmed, and the item dispensed to the client, providers may submit claims directly to Express Scripts Canada.

Providers will also be required to keep the following information on file:

- Prescription or recommendation from a NIHB recognized prescriber

- Occupational therapy or physiotherapy assessment report or recommendation if available
- Manufacturer product code number, make/model of the item

Providers must ensure the client meets all of the following conditions for a manual wheelchair:

- The client is not a full-time wheelchair user (since full-time wheelchair users require a more advanced chair);
- The client is not transferring to a long-term care facility; and
- The client is not in palliative care (as NIHB will cover a rental if this is available)

If the client does not meet these conditions, a PA is required. The Program will continue to require a PA for items that are above frequency guideline and/or maximum price.

## Certified Hand Therapist

Effective May 28, 2018, registered occupational therapists and physiotherapists who are certified by the Hand Therapy Certification Commission, Inc. (HTCC) will be recognized as providers of class II (custom-fitted) and class III (custom-made) orthoses for the upper extremity (i.e., fingers, hand, wrist, elbow and shoulder). To be eligible for coverage, the orthoses provided by the certified hand therapist (CHT) must be prescribed by a NIHB recognized prescriber and the service must not already be covered by public or private plan.

To register and submit claims to the NIHB Program, CHT can register through Express Scripts Canada by completing and submitting enrolment documentation.

## Coverage for Unregistered Infants

In order to allow parents additional time to register their children, unregistered-infants with an NIHB-eligible parent (registered First Nations person or a recognized Inuk) are now eligible for coverage under the NIHB Program until they reach the age of 18 months. Previously such coverage was provided to unregistered-infants up to one year of age.

The process for submitting a claim for a child under the age of one has not changed. It is described in section 4.4 of the [Medical Supplies and Equipment Claims Submission Kit](#).

To submit a claim for an unregistered child over the age of one, the provider should contact the First Nations and Inuit Health Regional Office for assistance. A temporary NIHB client number will be issued which can be used to process claims until the child reaches 18 months of age. New numbers requested before noon on Wednesday Eastern Time will be issued the same week; numbers become active for billing purposes at 5 p.m. Eastern Time each Thursday.

## Errata Notice

In the Spring NIHB Newsletter under the New Codes for Prosthetic Supplies and Repairs, the benefit code for suspension sleeve, right should be 99401208.

## 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

#### MS&E Extended Hours

Monday to Friday:  
6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Eastern Time  
Excluding Statutory Holidays

#### MS&E Claims

##### Mail claims to:

Express Scripts Canada  
NIHB MS&E Claims  
P.O. Box 1365, Station K,  
Toronto, ON M4P 3J4

##### Fax claims to:

1 (888) 249-6098

#### Provider Relations Department

**Fax completed provider agreements and  
updates to certificates or affiliates to:**

1 (855) 622-0669

#### Other Correspondence

##### Mail to:

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

### NIHB PROGRAM MS&E BENEFITS

First Nations and Inuit Health Branch  
Regional Offices

#### PRIOR APPROVALS/INQUIRIES 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.