



**March 8, 2019**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:  
FOR PHARMACY PROVIDERS**

**Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program:  
Coverage of Inhalers for the Treatment of Chronic Obstructive  
Pulmonary Disease (COPD)**

Effective March 4, 2019, the following long-acting bronchodilator inhalers for the treatment of COPD are open benefits.

Previously, these inhalers were limited use benefits. This change in listing status was recommended by NIHB's Drugs and Therapeutics Advisory Committee (DTAC), based on newest clinical guidelines and updates in practice for the treatment of these respiratory disorders.

Some of these inhaler listings include a therapeutic note which is meant to provide guidance to prescribers on appropriate and cost-effective prescribing.

<b>Name of Inhaler</b>	<b>Active Ingredients</b>
<b>LAMA</b>	
Incruse Ellipta	umeclidinium
Seebri Breezhaler	glycopyrronium
Spiriva HandiHaler / Spiriva Respimat	tiotropium
Tudorza Genuair	aclidinium
<b>LAMA / LABA*</b>	
Anoro Ellipta	umeclidinium / vilanterol
Duaklir Genuair	aclidinium / formoterol
Inspiroto Respimat	tiotropium / olodaterol
Ultibro Breezhaler	glycopyrronium / indacaterol

*\*Listed as open benefits with the following Therapeutic Note: For the treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in patients who have: moderate to severe COPD, as defined by spirometry or standardized symptomatic measurement<sup>1</sup>; and inadequate response to*



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*a long-acting beta-2 agonist (LABA) or a long-acting muscarinic antagonist (LAMA).*

<sup>1</sup>As defined by the Canadian Thoracic Society COPD classification. Moderate: shortness of breath from COPD causing the patient to stop after walking approximately 100 meters (or after a few minutes) on the level. Severe: shortness of breath from COPD resulting in the patient being too breathless to leave the house or breathless after undressing, or the presence of chronic respiratory failure or clinical signs of right heart failure.

LAMA=long-acting muscarinic antagonist

LABA= long-acting beta-2 agonist