



**NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM:
COVERAGE OF COMMERCIALY PREPARED METHADONE PRODUCTS
IN NOVA SCOTIA**

Methadose 10mg/mL and Metadol-D 10mg/mL oral solutions are commercially available methadone products indicated (or approved by Health Canada) for the treatment of opioid dependence. As of January 1, 2018, the Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists' Practice Directive requires the conversion of compounded methadone prescriptions to commercially available Methadose or Metadol-D.

Methadose 10mg/mL and Metadol-D 10mg/mL oral solutions are listed on the NIHB Drug Benefit List as an Expedited Special Authorization benefit for methadone maintenance therapy (MMT). The specific DINs, including a sugar-free product, are 02394596, 02394618 and 02244290.

Effective January 1, 2018, for NIHB clients residing in Nova Scotia, the pDIN (00908835) for compounded methadone solution for MMT will be delisted from the NIHB DBL in Nova Scotia in accordance with the new Nova Scotia *Standards of Practice: Opioid Agonist Maintenance Treatment Services*.

When billing a commercially prepared methadone product to the NIHB Program, **the quantity submitted must be in millilitres (mL) of the product dispensed prior to any further dilution.**

For example, if a physician prescribes methadone 75 mg daily, the claims submission must indicate a quantity of 7.5 mL of Methadose 10mg/mL or Metadol-D 10mg/mL oral solution.

This is different from the method used by Nova Scotia Pharmacare for Methadose or Metadol-D (and by the NIHB Program for compounded methadone prescriptions), where the quantity is submitted in milligrams (mg). This means that if the drug file in your software system is maintained in milligrams for billing to the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program, the drug file will need to be updated using the Third Party Plan tab for NIHB. This system change will automatically convert the Methadose or Metadol-D prescription quantity from mg to mL when billing to NIHB. For assistance, please contact Express Script Canada at 1 (888) 511-4666 or your pharmacy software provider.

Compounded methadone solution for MMT will only be reimbursed by NIHB in exceptional circumstances, such as when there is a shortage of commercial oral solutions or when there is a true allergy to these products. Other NIHB methadone reimbursement policies will remain in effect.