



**NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS PHARMACY POLICY CHANGE:
OPIOID DOSE ESCALATION LIMIT
Quebec Providers**

Effective June 1, 2016, NIHB will no longer approve requests to increase opioid doses above 300 mg morphine equivalents per day. Clients who are currently approved on doses above 300 mg morphine equivalents per day (but below the NIHB maximum opioid dose limit for 450 mg morphine equivalents per day) will be permitted to continue at their current dose, but will not be approved for dose escalations. Requests sent to the Drug Exception Centre (DEC) to increase doses above 300 mg morphine equivalents per day will be considered only on a case-by-case basis for acute, temporary pain conditions. This policy does not apply to palliative clients or clients undergoing cancer treatment. This policy, as part of NIHB's Prescription Drug Abuse strategy, is intended to promote the safe and appropriate use of opioids.