

## NEW INFORMATION

### Change of Listing Status of Kadian – Open Benefit to Limited Use

Effective November 17, 2014, the listing status of Kadian (sustained released morphine sulphate) will be changed from open benefit to limited use (LU) with the following LU criteria:

- For the treatment of opioid dependence where methadone and Suboxone are not available or not appropriate OR
- For the treatment of chronic pain.

If Kadian is being requested for opioid dependence treatment, the client will be placed in the Non-Insured Health Benefit (NIHB) Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) where coverage of opioids, benzodiazepines, stimulants or gabapentin will each be limited to a sole prescriber. Please note that the sole prescriber does not need to be the Kadian prescriber, however may be designated upon request. Please visit the following link for more information on the NIHB PMP ([www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/pubs/nihb-ssna/drug-med/pmp-psm/index-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/pubs/nihb-ssna/drug-med/pmp-psm/index-eng.php)).

### Antiseptics

Effective November 3, 2014, the following antiseptic agents will be removed from the NIHB Drug Benefit List (DBL): triclosan 0.5% (Adasept), aluminium diacetate/benzethonium chloride (Buro Sol), chlorhexidine/isopropyl alcohol 2% and 4% (Stanhexidine), hexachlorophene 3% (PhisoHex), povidone iodine 10% (Betadine) and hydrogen peroxide. This is based on a recommendation from the NIHB Drugs and Therapeutics Advisory Committee (DTAC) which concluded there was limited information available about the efficacy of topical antiseptics, as well as risks of resistance from overuse and possible toxicities. Requests for these antiseptic products may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

### Change of the Listing Status of Calcium and Vitamin D Combination Products

Effective November 3, 2014, only combination products of calcium 500 mg and vitamin D 400 IU per tablet or capsule or at a higher strength will be listed on the NIHB DBL. Other combination products with a strength lower than calcium 500 mg and vitamin D 400 IU per tablet or capsule will be delisted from the DBL.

### Gabapentin and Cymbalta Maximum Limits

Current dose limits for gabapentin and Cymbalta are calculated over a 100 day period. In situations where an amount less than 100 days' supply is dispensed, in the next fill the client may not be able to get coverage for the full amount prescribed because of the dose limit. For example, if a client receives 90 days (or in multiples of 30 days), the next fill will be limited to 10 days by the system. In this situation, the provider will have to dispense 10 days of the medication. After that, the client will be able to receive up to another 100 days of medication. Therefore, providers are encouraged to dispense

gabapentin and Cymbalta in 100 days' supply, when medically appropriate and safe for the client. The current dose limit for Cymbalta is set at 60mg per day and gabapentin is set at 4000 mg/day. Should these dose limits be exceeded, the prescriber will receive a letter from the Drug Exception Centre (DEC) including information on how a client/prescriber may appeal.

### New Coverage Limits for Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) Products

Effective August 11, 2014, based on a recommendation from the DTAC, NIHB clients are eligible to receive up to three treatment courses of NRT of 12 weeks each within a 12-month period, including two courses of NRT patches and one course of NRT products used "PRN" (e.g. gums, lozenges, inhalers). Previously, two treatment courses of NRT of 12 weeks each, within a 12-month period were allowed. Please note that the quantity limit of 180 tablets per year of Zyban and 165 tablets per year of Champix remain the same.

### Changes to Listing Status of Suboxone

As communicated in a recent fax broadcast, effective September 15, 2014, the NIHB Program has changed the Limited Use criteria for Suboxone (buprenorphine/naloxone).

The new Suboxone criteria include:

- A rationale for using Suboxone instead of the alternative (i.e. methadone); and
- In cases where the client lives in a remote or isolated location, confirmation is required that the community has the ability to support Suboxone administration. These supports include the safe daily witnessing, storage and handling of the Suboxone doses. After this confirmation, NIHB will approve the Suboxone for the client.
- The client must be 16 years or older.

The pharmacy will contact the NIHB DEC, which will confirm the client's location before approving the coverage. These doses may need to be witnessed in a local pharmacy in accordance with provincial or territorial regulations.

The definition of 'remoteness' will be defined as per the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) Band Classification Definitions at the following website: [pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/SearchFN.aspx?lang=eng](http://pse5-esd5.ainc-inac.gc.ca/fnp/Main/Search/SearchFN.aspx?lang=eng)

**NIHB Program and Express Scripts Canada Contact  
Information can be found on the last page of this NIHB  
Newsletter**

## Tablets of 282s and 292s

Effective November 3, 2014, 282s (DIN 02234510) and 292s (DIN 02238645) will be removed from the DBL. As part of the Prescription Drug Abuse strategy, NIHB regularly reviews the DBL to look for medications at risk of abuse that may no longer play a significant therapeutic role. 282 and 292s were identified as products which were no longer needed and could potentially be harmful due to the codeine content and lack of enteric coating for the acetylsalicylic acid component.

## Status in Listing Change for Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs)

Effective July 21, 2014, the following PPIs are no longer listed under the NIHB Program:

### 10MG Omeprazole Delayed Release Tablets

02230737 Losec  
02260859 Ratio Omeprazole  
02295407 Teva Omeprazole

### 10MG Omeprazole Delayed Release Capsules

02119579 Losec  
02329425 Mylan Omeprazole  
02296438 Sandoz Omeprazole

The change in the status of the above PPIs is based on the Canadian Optimal Medication Prescribing and Utilization Service (COMPUS) report on optimal PPI therapy that states that all PPIs are equally efficacious.

Clients already on the above PPIs will be grandfathered.

For your information, the following PPIs are available on the NIHB formulary:

Pariet 10mg, including generics  
Pariet 20mg, including generics  
Losec 20mg tablet, including generics  
Losec 20mg capsule, including generics  
Pantoloc 40mg tablet, including generics  
Prevacid 15mg capsule, including generics  
Prevacid 30mg capsule, including generics  
Prevacid Fastab 15mg tablet  
Prevacid Fastab 30mg tablet  
Tecta 40 mg tablet

## Reduction in the Opioid Dose Limit

To ensure appropriate opioid use amongst NIHB clients, on September 30, 2013, NIHB implemented an opioid dose limit of 600 mg morphine equivalents per day for clients with non-cancer/non-palliative pain. This limit is calculated based on the total daily dose of all opioids a client is receiving covered through the Program.

According to the Canadian Guideline for Safe and Effective Use of Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain, "chronic non-cancer pain can be managed effectively in most patients with dosages at or below 200 mg/day of morphine or equivalent. Consideration of a higher dosage requires careful reassessment of the pain and of risk for misuse, and frequent monitoring with evidence of improved patient outcomes."

Effective October 20, 2014, the daily opioid dose limit will be decreased to 500 mg morphine equivalents per day for non-cancer/non-palliative pain.

## Benzodiazepine Dose Limit Policy

On March 4, 2013, the NIHB Program introduced a dose limit for benzodiazepines. This limit was initially set at 120 mg of diazepam equivalents per day. This limit has been lowered since 2013 and it has been decreased on September 4, 2014, to 60 mg. It will gradually be decreased to reach 40 mg of diazepam equivalents per day. According to the product monograph for diazepam, the recommended usual adult dosage is up to 40 mg per day. Diazepam equivalents refer to the total amount of benzodiazepines a client is receiving if all benzodiazepines were switched to equivalent doses of diazepam. For a comparison of equivalent doses, see the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) monograph for benzodiazepines: [www.e-therapeutics.ca/cps.showCphaMonograph.action](http://www.e-therapeutics.ca/cps.showCphaMonograph.action). If you are unable to access this link, please contact Express Scripts Canada or the NIHB DEC for more information.

## REMINDERS

### Syringes on the DBL

The NIHB DBL includes specific eligible items such as the following:

- Drug delivery devices, required to administer medications covered by the NIHB Program for certain conditions, when the drug delivery devices are integral to the drug product.

While the DBL does list syringes, they are intended for parenteral use; that is, the administration of insulin and other medications such as subcutaneous methotrexate. The DBL does not list oral syringes for the administration of oral liquids because they are NOT integral to the administration of the drug product.

## Modifications to NIHB Provider Claim Statements

Effective August 1, 2014, your bi-weekly NIHB Provider Claim Statements were aligned with Express Scripts Canada's current business name from the previous ESI Canada and were rebranded and utilize the standard "Express Scripts" corporate logo. This modification can be seen in the header of the cover page and the statement pages to follow.

## 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.**

A verbal request is accepted at the Express Scripts Canada Provider Claims Processing Call Centre 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), bank 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 NIHB Claims Services Provider Website, or contact the Express Scripts Canada Provider Claims Processing Call Centre to request a copy.

## New Pharmacy Openings

New pharmacy providers must advise Express Scripts Canada that they have had their college inspection and have been approved by the college prior to Express Scripts Canada activating their profile. Any changes (e.g., legal name, operating name, address, etc.) must be updated with the college before Express Scripts Canada can process these modifications. Please provide an **alternate phone number** for the contact person at the pharmacy, if the direct phone number for the pharmacy has not yet been activated.

## GO GREEN – Move to E-mail Communications!

**Make e-mail your first choice of communication delivery for general communications (e.g. NIHB Newsletters)!**

- ... Receive same-day e-mail delivery from Express Scripts Canada to stay informed of Health Canada's NIHB Program.
- ... Only print as needed to reduce costs associated with business supplies (e.g., paper, printer ink, etc.) and office space (e.g., filing cabinets).
- ... Save and share your communications within your office network at the click of your mouse.

It's EASY to make the change... Either:

- Place a verbal request to the Express Scripts Canada Provider Claims Processing Call Centre at 1-888-511-4666; OR
- Complete the attached *Modification to Pharmacy/MS&E Provider Information Form*.

**Note:** The above is not applicable to Prior Approval (PA) letters. These will continue to be sent via fax or mail (depending on your specified mode of communication).

## NIHB PROGRAM AND EXPRESS SCRIPTS CANADA CONTACT INFORMATION

### EXPRESS SCRIPTS CANADA

#### Provider Claims Processing Call Centre

*Please have your Provider Number readily available*

**Inquiries and Password Resets**  
1-888-511-4666

#### Pharmacy Extended Hours

Monday to Friday:  
6:30 a.m. to 12 a.m. Eastern Time  
Saturday, Sunday and Statutory Holidays:  
8 a.m. to 12 a.m. 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

#### Pharmacy/MS&E Provider Relations Department & Provider Agreements

##### Fax Completed

##### Pharmacy/MS&E Provider Agreements to:

Toll Free Fax No.: 1-855-622-0669

#### Other Correspondence

##### Mail to:

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

#### NIHB Forms

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

[www.provider.express-scripts.ca](http://www.provider.express-scripts.ca)

### 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

#### Health Canada 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 | 1-888-332-9222 |
| Ontario                       | 1-800-881-3921 |
| Quebec                        | 1-877-483-1575 |
| Saskatchewan                  | 1-866-885-3933 |
| Yukon                         | 1-866-362-6717 |

##### INQUIRIES

##### Pharmacy/MS&E Benefits

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Alberta                       | 1-780-495-2694 |
|                               | 1-800-232-7301 |
| Atlantic                      | 1-902-426-2656 |
|                               | 1-800-565-3294 |
| Manitoba                      | 1-800-665-8507 |
| Northwest Territories/Nunavut | 1-888-332-9222 |
| Ontario                       | 1-800-640-0642 |
| Quebec                        | 1-877-483-1575 |
|                               | 1-514-283-1575 |
| Saskatchewan                  | 1-306-780-8294 |
|                               | 1-866-885-3933 |
| Yukon                         | 1-866-362-6717 |

#### British Columbia First Nations Health Authority

##### PRIOR APPROVALS

##### MS&E Benefits

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| British Columbia | 1-888-299-9222 |
|------------------|----------------|

##### PHARMACY/MS&E INQUIRIES

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| British Columbia | 1-604-666-3331 |
|                  | 1-800-317-7878 |