



## NEW INFORMATION

**Changes and Reduction in the Opioid Dose Limits**

To encourage safe opioid use, the NIHB Program has established opioid dose limits. Previously, the Program had both an overall opioid dose limit (400 mg morphine equivalents per day) and an opioid dose escalation limit (200 mg morphine equivalents per day). These dose limits have been gradually lowered since implementation in order to encourage and facilitate a slow taper to safer opioid doses.

Effective November 6, 2017, these two limits were simplified into a single opioid dose limit of 200 mg morphine equivalents per day (calculated over a 30-day period) for non-cancer/non-palliative pain. This dose limit does not apply to clients who are taking opioids for cancer or palliative pain management.

Requests sent to the Drug Exception Centre (DEC) to increase doses above 200 mg morphine equivalents per day will be considered only on a case-by-case basis. Clients who are currently approved on opioid doses above 200 mg morphine equivalents per day can continue above the limit while the dose is slowly tapered to a safer level.

**Change to Acetaminophen Dose Limit**

Effective November 6, 2017, oxycodone-acetaminophen combination products are no longer included in the acetaminophen dose limit but are instead included in the opioid dose limit. Codeine-acetaminophen products will continue to count toward the overall acetaminophen limit of 3600 mg per day. Providers are reminded to ensure that clients on multiple acetaminophen-containing products do not exceed the daily recommended dose.

**Guide for Pharmacy Benefits**

To reflect current NIHB Program policies, the [Guide for Pharmacy Benefits](#) is updated on a quarterly basis, concurrent with the Pharmacy NIHB newsletters. Providers are encouraged to update their printed or electronic copies by visiting [canada.ca/nihb](http://canada.ca/nihb).

**Pharmacy Providers Dispensing Medical Supplies and Equipment****Change in Coverage for Breast Pumps**

Effective December 11, 2017, manual breast pumps (benefit code 99400317) will become an open benefit (no longer requiring a prior approval (PA)) up to a maximum of \$65, per birth event. For additional information, please refer to section 3.1.4. of the [Guide for Medical Supplies and Equipment Benefits](#).

**Recognition of Registered Midwives as Prescribers**

Effective November 28, 2017, the NIHB Program recognizes registered midwives (RM) as prescribers of MS&E within their scope of practice (for items such as: medical grade compression stockings, invalid rings, maternity belts and breast pumps) in provinces and territories where their practice is regulated. The item must be a benefit of the NIHB Program and will be funded in accordance with NIHB Program policies and guidelines.

When submitting claims for items prescribed by a RM, the provider must enter the following information in the claim form:

- *Prescriber ID*: Licence number of the RM
- *Prescriber ID Ref Number (RM association code)*:  
08 = Ontario College of Midwives  
39 = Midwifery Regulatory Council of Nova Scotia  
54 = Ordre professionnel des sages-femmes du Québec  
68 = College of Midwives of Manitoba  
88 = Alberta Association of Midwives  
98 = College of Midwives of British Columbia  
99 = Other (for provinces and territories that are not listed above)

**Transition of the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch to the new Department of Indigenous Services**

The Government of Canada recently announced plans to create a new department of Indigenous Services. Bringing Indigenous programs and services together in one department will create opportunities to address the key building blocks of Indigenous wellness in a more coordinated and seamless way. As part of this transformation, it is expected that programs and services currently delivered by the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) of Health Canada, including the NIHB Program, will become part of the new department of Indigenous Services in the future.

Please be assured that this transition will not affect services to NIHB clients or benefit providers. NIHB provider registration and claims processing will not be affected by this change. In addition, NIHB Program contact information will remain the same until further notice. More information about the department's creation will be provided once it is available.

For pharmacy providers that dispense MS&E, please refer to the MS&E NIHB Newsletter for most recent changes. Visit [provider.express-scripts.ca/medical-supplies-and-equipment/newsletters](http://provider.express-scripts.ca/medical-supplies-and-equipment/newsletters) and select the newsletter for your region.

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

Published jointly by Express Scripts Canada and Health Canada

## 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

#### Pharmacy Extended Hours

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

##### Fax Pharmacy and MS&E claims to:

1 (888) 249-6098

#### Provider Relations Department

##### Fax completed provider agreements 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 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/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.