

NEW INFORMATION

Coverage of Nicotine Patches

Effective May 14, 2018, the NIHB Program has increased the eligible quantity of nicotine patches. Clients are now eligible for up to 252 patches of any listed brand within a 12-month period. If the client has reached the quantity limit and requires additional patches, please call the Drug Exception Centre.

Additions to the Pharmacist-Initiated Treatment Policy

NIHB has reviewed and updated the list of medications eligible for reimbursement when prescribed or recommended in accordance with the Pharmacist-Initiated Treatment Policy. New eligible treatments are listed below. The full list is available in the [NIHB Guide for Pharmacy Benefits](#).

Condition	Eligible Schedule 2, 3 and Unscheduled Treatments
Fever in children age 11 and under – up to one standard pack size of a pediatric formulation may be dispensed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ibuprofen oral liquid Ibuprofen chewable tablets Acetaminophen oral liquid Acetaminophen chewable tablets
Childhood nutrition – may be initiated by a pharmacist for children age 11 and under	Multivitamins listed in AHFS 88:28.00 of NIHB DBL
Vitamin D supplementation – pharmacists may initiate treatment for clients of any age	Non-prescription vitamin D products listed in AHFS 88:16.00 of the NIHB DBL
Spacer Device – a client must have received a metered dose inhaler (MDI) in the past six months in order to be eligible	<p>Spacer devices listed in AHFS 94:00.00 of the NIHB DBL</p> <p>Note: Coverage is granted for up to 2 spacer devices every 12 months</p>

Please note: the eligibility criteria for multivitamins has been changed. Pediatric multivitamins are now benefits for children up to and including age 11 and under.

Drug Benefit List Web Page Search

NIHB has added a search function to the drug benefit list (DBL) web pages to help users search by generic name, brand name, or drug identification number (DIN). The search results will list the web pages from the DBL where the search term occurred. The DBL can be accessed at canada.ca/nihb or directly by clicking [here](#).

Coverage of Nasal Naloxone

Effective March 27, 2018, Narcan nasal spray (DIN 02458187) is an open benefit for clients of the NIHB Program.

Narcan is a nasal form of naloxone, used to treat opioid overdose. Narcan nasal spray has been added to NIHB's Pharmacist-Initiated Treatment Policy meaning it is eligible for reimbursement when prescribed or recommended by a pharmacist. It may be requested for a client's personal use, or to protect an at-risk person. The client requesting naloxone does not have to specify who it is for; however, it must be billed to the NIHB Program under the name of the eligible client who is requesting it (even if it is not for their personal use).

Where pharmacies are providing ancillary supplies to support safe nasal naloxone administration and overdose management, providers can bill the cost of the naloxone and ancillary supplies as a naloxone nasal spray kit under pseudo-DIN 09991475. Accepted contents for reimbursement in a naloxone nasal spray kit include:

- 2 x 4 mg naloxone nasal spray devices
- 1 rescue breathing mask
- 1 pair of gloves
- Carrying case

The ancillary items must be billed as a kit under pseudo-DIN 0991475 and not be billed separately from the naloxone nasal spray. Please note that all claims are subject to audit verification.

Injectable naloxone kits continue to be an open benefit under NIHB.

Naloxone kits and training may also be available through local or regional public health services.

Updated Listing for Bupropion

NIHB covers generic bupropion (Wellbutrin). Previously, there was a dose limit of 300 mg per day. Effective May 14, 2018, bupropion is an open benefit under the NIHB Program without any dose limit, following recommendations from the Drugs and Therapeutics Advisory Committee (DTAC).

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 and select the newsletter for your region.

NIHB Coverage of Commercially Prepared Methadone Products in Quebec

The NIHB Program has previously covered methadone as an extemporaneous mixture in Quebec.

As of February 28th, 2018, NIHB covers commercially available methadone products such as Methadose 10 mg/mL or Metadol-D 10 mg/mL oral solutions. These methadone solutions are approved by Health Canada and are commercially available for the treatment of opioid dependence.

Methadose 10 mg/mL and Metadol-D 10 mg/mL oral solutions are listed on the NIHB Drug Benefit List as an expedited special authorization benefit for methadone maintenance therapy (MMT) similar to the methadone extemporaneous mixture.

The specific DINs for commercially available methadone, including a sugar-free product, are 02394596, 02394618 and 02244290.

When claiming a commercially prepared methadone product, 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 claim submission must indicate a quantity of 7.5 mL of Methadose 10 mg/mL or Metadol-D 10 mg/mL oral solution. The compounded methadone solution for MMT with the pseudo-DIN (00908835) will continue to be covered by the NIHB Program in Quebec.

For information on the change to NIHB Methadone listing status in Quebec, please refer to the [Spring 2018 Newsletter](#).

Coverage for Unregistered Infants

In order to allow parents additional time to register their children, unregistered-infants with an NIHB-eligible parent (registered First Nations person or recognized Inuk) are now eligible for coverage under the NIHB Program until they reach the age of 18 months. Previously such coverage was provided to unregistered-infants up to one year of age.

The process for submitting a claim for an unregistered child under the age of one has not changed. It is described in section 4 of the [Pharmacy Claims Submission Kit](#).

To submit a claim for an unregistered child over the age of one, the provider should contact the Drug Exception Centre for assistance. A temporary NIHB client number will be issued which can be used to process claims until the child reaches 18 months of age. New numbers requested before noon on Wednesday Eastern Time will be issued the same week; temporary client numbers become active for billing purposes at 5 p.m. (ET) every Thursday.

