



April 2019

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program Update

The latest news on NIHB policies and benefit coverage for First Nations and Inuit clients

What’s Inside

Pharmacy Benefit Information

Reduction of Dose Limit for Benzodiazepines – Ontario and Northern Regions 1

Pharmacist Recommendation for Wart Treatments 1

Dental Benefit Information

New Coverage for Root Canal Re-Treatment 2

Service Standards for Predetermination (PD) 2

Medical Supplies and Equipment Information

Recognition of Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists to Recommend Selected MS&E 3

Coverage for ‘Back-Up’ Wheelchairs 3

Increased Coverage for Silver Alginate Wound Dressing 3

New Benefit – Pessary 3

New Listing – Medical Stroller 3

Increased Rate for Custom-Made Foot Orthotics 4

Pharmacy Benefit Information

Reduction of Dose Limit for Benzodiazepines – Ontario and Northern Regions

To help ensure the safety of clients, the NIHB Program is further lowering the dose limit for coverage of benzodiazepines. This change is being implemented region by region, and will take effect in Ontario and Northern regions (Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories) on May 13, 2019.

Some clients may be exempt from these dose limits. Pharmacists should call the [NIHB Drug Exception Centre](#) when dose limits are reached.

Pharmacist Recommendation for Wart Treatments

Medications to treat warts were recently added to the list of items that do not require a doctor's prescription and are covered by NIHB when recommended by a pharmacist. You can find a complete list of eligible products and medications that can be recommended by pharmacists in section 3.13 of the [NIHB Guide for Pharmacy Benefits](#), on the Government of Canada website at canada.ca/nihb.

If you or your pharmacist have questions about this policy, please call the NIHB Drug Exception Centre at 1-800-580-0950.

Dental Benefit Information

New Coverage for Root Canal Re-Treatment

The NIHB Program has expanded coverage under its Endodontic Policy to include new eligible services for re-treatment of root canals. These services require predetermination. You can find more information on frequency and eligibility criteria in Section 8.4 Endodontic Services of the [NIHB Dental Benefits Guide](#) on the web at canada.ca/nihb.

Service Standards for Predetermination

Certain dental procedures require a predetermination (PD), where the NIHB Program reviews the request to confirm eligibility for coverage before the service is provided. The NIHB Program aims to provide a decision on coverage of predetermination requests within 15 business days, starting from the day that NIHB receives the submission from your dental provider. This service standard may not apply in special circumstances, such as human or environmental disaster (e.g. fire, power outage, equipment failure).

If a predetermination request is missing information, the NIHB Dental Predetermination Centre will communicate with your dental provider to request the information, and put the request on hold. The 15 day review period restarts when NIHB receives the missing information from your provider.

Clients and providers may call the NIHB Dental Predetermination Centre at 1-855-618-6291 (Dental Services) or 1-866-227-0943 (Orthodontic Services) to inquire about the status of predetermination requests.

Medical Supplies and Equipment (MS&E) Benefits

Recognition of Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists to Recommend Selected MS&E

NIHB will now accept written recommendations from registered Occupational Therapists (OT) and Physiotherapists (PT) for coverage of certain medical supplies and equipment. When recommended by an OT or PT, a prescription from a doctor is no longer required. This includes many items in the General Benefits List, as well as the Limb and Body Orthotics, Pressure Garments and Pressure Orthotics Benefit Lists.

For more information on eligible items and prescription/recommendation requirements, please consult the [Medical Supplies and Equipment Benefit Lists](#) on the web at canada.ca/nihb.

Coverage for ‘Back-Up’ Wheelchairs

NIHB clients using a power wheelchair are now eligible for a standard manual wheelchair, to be used as a ‘back-up’ (for example, if the power wheelchair is under repair). Prior approval for coverage of a second wheelchair is required. Please check Section 2.4 (h) of the [Guide for Medical Supplies and Equipment Benefits](#) for more information.

Increased Coverage for Silver Alginate Wound Dressing

The maximum number of silver alginate dressings that can be claimed without prior approval has increased to 20 per year (increased from 10 per year). Additional dressings may be covered with prior approval if there is a medical need. More information on these and other wound care benefits is available in Section 1.8.3 of the [General MS&E Benefits List](#).

New Benefit - Pessary

Vaginal pessaries have been added as open benefits (under ‘Pessary’). They are used to treat pelvic organ prolapse and urinary incontinence. More information can be found under ‘Pessary’ in Section 1.7 of the [General MS&E Benefits List](#).

New Listing - Medical stroller

Medical strollers are now listed as limited use benefits (prior approval required). Previously, they were covered on exception. More information on coverage criteria and guidelines can be found in Section 2.4 (h) of the [Guide for Medical Supplies and Equipment Benefits](#) and in Section 1.5.3 of the [General MS&E Benefits List](#), which are on the web at canada.ca/nihb.

Increased Rate for Custom-made Foot Orthotics

On April 1, 2019, the NIHB Program increased the reimbursement rate for a pair of custom-made foot orthotics to \$474.26 (unless the price is subject to a separate agreement between a provider group and the NIHB Program). If you purchased a pair of custom-made foot orthotics on or after April 1, 2019, you may be reimbursed at the new rate. More information can be found in the [Custom-made Shoes and Foot Orthotics Benefits List](#).

NIHB Client Inquiries

Email	NIHB-SSNA@hc-sc.gc.ca
Alberta	1-800-232-7301 Medical Transportation: 1-800-514-7106
Atlantic	1-800-565-3294
British Columbia	First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) 1-855-550-5454
Manitoba	1-800-665-8507 Medical Transportation: 1-877-983-0911
Northwest Territories/Nunavut	1-888-332-9222
Ontario	1-800-640-0642
Quebec	1-514-283-1575 1-877-483-1575 Mental Health Counselling: 1-877-583-2965
Saskatchewan	1-866-885-3933
Yukon	1-866-362-6717

Pharmacy Benefits

NIHB Drug Exception Centre	1-800-580-0950 ext. #3
-----------------------------------	------------------------

Dental and Orthodontic Services

NIHB Dental Predetermination Centre	1-855-618-6291 (Dental Services) 1-866-227-0943 (Orthodontic Services)
--	---