



**July 2019**

# **Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program Update**

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

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## **Vision Care Benefit Information**

### **Changes to Corrective Eyewear Coverage**

The NIHB Program recently announced changes to the coverage of corrective eyewear, including new coverage amounts based on your prescription. There are two key coverage amounts: standard and high index. These changes took effect on June 29, 2019. Please consult the [June 2019 Program Update](#) and the new [Vision Care Benefit Guide](#) for complete information, available on the web at [canada.ca/nihb](http://canada.ca/nihb).

## **Pharmacy Benefit Information**

### **Changes to Pediatric Nutrition Coverage**

Effective June 26, 2019, certain infant formulas will be added as Limited Use benefits. These products will be covered when medically necessary for infants up to one year of age. These new listings can be found in section [96:00 of the Drug Benefit List](#), with more details on coverage criteria in [Appendix A](#).

In addition, multivitamins will now be covered until the age of 19 and the list of multivitamins has been expanded. Please consult [section 88:28 of the Drug Benefit List](#) for more information. The Drug Benefit List is available on the on the Government of Canada website at [canada.ca/nihb](http://canada.ca/nihb).

### **Listing Status Change for Nabilone**

Effective June 24, 2019, nabilone is now an open benefit for adult clients over 18 years old. Nabilone is a medication that is used to treat severe nausea and vomiting caused by cancer treatment (chemotherapy). The dose coverage limit for nabilone is six milligrams per day, which is the maximum recommended daily dose for this medication.

### **New Benefit for Treatment of Atopic Dermatitis (Eczema) in Children**

Effective June 24, 2019, non-medicated emollient cream (Glaxal Base and similar products) is a limited use benefit for the treatment of atopic dermatitis (eczema) for clients age 18 and under. NIHB covers up to 450 grams per month.

Emollients are non-cosmetic moisturisers that can help reduce the severity of eczema, as well as the amount of medicated cream that is needed. If your child has eczema, ask your health provider if a non-medicated emollient cream could be an effective treatment option.

### **Information for Clients in Ontario: Coordination of Benefits with OHIP+**

Through OHIP+, the Government of Ontario provides prescription drug coverage for children and youth (24 years of age and under) who do not have coverage through a private health benefit plan.

Children and youth who are eligible under both OHIP+ and the NIHB Program may access coverage through either Program. If you want your pharmacist to submit your (or your child's) pharmacy claims to NIHB, please make sure to present [client identification](#).

For assistance, please contact the Ontario NIHB Navigators at 1-877-517-6527, or the NIHB Drug Exception Centre at 1-800-580-0950.

## **Dental Benefit Information**

### **New Coverage of All-Porcelain/Ceramic Crowns**

Effective July 1, 2019, the NIHB Program has added all-porcelain/ceramic crowns as eligible dental benefits. All other guidelines and criteria for coverage of crowns remain in effect, and can be found in Section 8.3.5 of the [NIHB Dental Benefits Guide](#) on the web at [canada.ca/nihb](http://canada.ca/nihb).

## **Medical Supplies and Equipment (MS&E) Benefits**

### **Increased Coverage for Washable Bed Pads**

NIHB now covers 6 washable bed pads (underpads) per year, increased from 2 per year. If they are needed on a long-term basis, your provider should contact the [NIHB regional office](#) to request a special authorization. Once a special authorization is set up, the provider can dispense these items in the future without prior approval.

### **Complete Hearing Assessments Changed to Open Benefits**

Complete hearing assessments are now open benefits. They are covered by NIHB without prior approval, once every 5 years. You or your doctor may request a hearing reassessment after 2 years if you notice any change in your condition. Your audiologist should contact the [NIHB regional office](#) to request prior approval for early reassessment. More information can be found in the [Audiology Benefits List](#).

### **Coverage for Cochlear Implant Processors and Bone Anchored Hearing System Processors**

Cochlear implant processors and bone anchored hearing system processors (including soft band if required) are now listed by NIHB as limited use benefits (prior approval required). They are eligible for replacement once every 5 years.

Details on coverage criteria, prescriber/provider requirements and replacement guidelines can be found in Section 3 of the [Guide for Medical Supplies and Equipment Benefits](#) and in the [Audiology Benefits List](#). These documents are available on the web at [canada.ca/nihb](http://canada.ca/nihb).

### **New Listing - BPAP ST Device**

Effective April 9, 2019, bilevel positive airway pressure with spontaneous and timed breathing (BPAP ST) devices are now listed as limited use benefits (prior approval required). This device may be appropriate for clients with respiratory failure. Talk to your health care provider about whether a BPAP ST device could be right for you. For more information please refer to Section 9 of the [Guide for Medical Supplies and Equipment Benefits](#).

## General Program Information

### Reminder – Effective Dates

When the NIHB Program announces new benefit coverage or a new reimbursement rate, these changes start on the “effective date”. This means that the change applies to eligible items or services received by the client on and after this date. The new coverage or rate will not apply to items or services received before the effective date.

## NIHB Client Inquiries

<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:sac.nihb-ssna.isc@canada.ca">sac.nihb-ssna.isc@canada.ca</a>
<b>Alberta</b>	1-800-232-7301 Medical Transportation: 1-800-514-7106
<b>Atlantic</b>	1-800-565-3294
<b>British Columbia</b>	First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) 1-855-550-5454
<b>Manitoba</b>	1-800-665-8507 Medical Transportation: 1-877-983-0911
<b>Northwest Territories/Nunavut</b>	1-888-332-9222
<b>Ontario</b>	1-800-640-0642
<b>Quebec</b>	1-514-283-1575 1-877-483-1575 Mental Health Counselling: 1-877-583-2965
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	1-866-885-3933
<b>Yukon</b>	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)