

MAY BULLETIN

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PROGRAM INFORMATION

PHARMACARE REMINDER-BENEFICIARIES WITH OTHER INSURANCE

The Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs provide drug coverage to eligible residents under different programs. In some cases, eligible residents may have other private or public drug coverage. Please ensure that for each program the applicable policies below, supported by provincial legislation, are followed in cases where eligible residents have more than one source of drug coverage.

Residents of Nova Scotia with private drug insurance are eligible, and encouraged to join the Family Pharmacare Program to help protect against the possibility of high out-of-pocket drug costs. By legislation, Family Pharmacare is always the payer of last resort and is billed after the primary insurance.

Department of Community Services (DCS) Pharmacare also provides drug coverage under its programs. In some cases beneficiaries may have other insurance coverage, and are required to use this insurance before accessing benefits through Pharmacare. DCS Pharmacare is always the payer of last resort and is billed after the primary insurance.

Under the Seniors' Pharmacare Program, residents of Nova Scotia over the age of 65 are not eligible to join the program if they have other private or public drug coverage.

An exception is allowed for seniors who receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) and have drug coverage under the Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP). In this case, Seniors' Pharmacare is the primary insurer and PSHCP is the secondary insurer.

Seniors who are not eligible to join Seniors' Pharmacare because they have other insurance (except Family Pharmacare), may be eligible to have a portion of their drug copayments reimbursed. Reimbursement is only considered when the copayments through their insurance are more than the total amount (premium plus copayments) that they would have paid if they were beneficiaries of the Seniors' Pharmacare Program. This is a manual, reimbursement process, and seniors should be instructed to contact the Pharmacare Program directly for more information.

For more information please refer to www.nspharmacare.ca for program information or <http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/index.htm> for program legislation.

NOVA SCOTIA FORMULARY UPDATES

NEW PRODUCT ADDED TO THE NOVA SCOTIA FORMULARY

The following product is a new listing to the Nova Scotia Formulary. The benefit status of this product within the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs is indicated *effective May 27, 2010*.

CATEGORY & PRODUCT	DIN/PIN	STRENGTH	PRESCRIBER	MFR	STATUS
Azarga® (brinzolamide, timolol)	02331624	1%/0.5% Ophthalmic Susp	DR NP	ALC	SF
Decision Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Azarga® is a combination of timolol and brinzolamide, a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor. Azarga® is less expensive than Cosopt®. Combinations with carbonic anhydrase inhibitors (Azarga®, Cosopt®) are however more expensive than beta blocker/prostaglandin inhibitor combination products. 				

NEW EXCEPTION STATUS BENEFITS

The following products were reviewed by the Canadian Expert Drug Advisory Committee (CEDAC) or the Atlantic Expert Advisory Committee (AEAC) and will be listed with the following criteria *effective May 27, 2010*.

CATEGORY & PRODUCT	DIN/PIN	STRENGTH	PRESCRIBER	MFR	STATUS
Xamiol® (betametasone, calcipotriol)	02319012	0.5mg/g/ 50mcg/g Gel	DR NP	LEO	E (SF)
Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the treatment of scalp psoriasis after the failure of a topical steroid alone and the use of topical steroid and calcipotriol together as single agents. 				
Decision Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xamiol is a gel formulation of calcipotriol and betametasone which is used to treat scalp psoriasis. It is more effective than calcipotriol alone; however there are no trials comparing the two agents separately and the cost per gram is more than the single agents. 				

New Exception Status Benefits Continued

CATEGORY & PRODUCT	DIN/PIN	STRENGTH	PRESCRIBER	MFR	STATUS
Xeomin[®] (clostridium botulinum Type A)	02324032	100u/vial	DR NP	MRZ	E(SF)
Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for the treatment of blepharospasm and cervical dystonia (spasmodic torticollis) 				
Decision Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Xeomin[®] is a botulinum toxin A formulation, free from complexing proteins. It has been compared to Botox[®] in the treatment of blepharospasm and cervical dystonias. In the treatment of post stroke spasticity, there were no head to head trials versus Botox[®]. The impact on functional outcomes was not clear and quality of life was not measured. Therefore this indication is not insured. The reviewing committee noted that drug plans may wish to review the evidence for all botulinum toxin A therapies in the treatment of post-stroke spasticity. 				

NON INSURED PRODUCTS

The following products were recently reviewed by Canadian Expert Drug Advisory Committee (CEDAC) or the Atlantic Expert Advisory Committee (AEAC) and were not recommended to be listed as insured benefits under the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs.

CATEGORY & PRODUCT	DIN/PIN	STRENGTH	PRESCRIBER	MFR	STATUS
Actonel[®] (risedronate)	02316838	150mg Tab		PGA	NOT INSURED
Decision Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an increased cost compared to other Actonel[®] formulations and generic alendronate without any additional benefit provided. 				

CATEGORY & PRODUCT	DIN/PIN	STRENGTH	PRESCRIBER	MFR	STATUS
BenzaClin[®] (benzoyl peroxide, clindamycin)	02248472	5%/1% Gel		SAV	NOT INSURED
Decision Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is more expensive than clindamycin and benzoyl peroxide used separately and it has no demonstrated clinical advantage compared to using the individual products separately. 				

Non Insured Products Continued

CATEGORY & PRODUCT	DIN/PIN	STRENGTH	PRESCRIBER	MFR	STATUS
Lipidil EZ[®] (fenofibrate)	02269074 02269082	48mg Tab 145mg Tab		SPH	NOT INSURED
Decision Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was no clear impact on clinical outcomes over other fenofibrate products and it is more costly than generic micro-coated fenofibrate. 				

CATEGORY & PRODUCT	DIN/PIN	STRENGTH	PRESCRIBER	MFR	STATUS
Pristiq[®] (desvenlafaxine)	02321092 02321106	50mg ER Tab 100mg ER Tab		WAY	NOT INSURED
Decision Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Desvenlafaxine is an active metabolite of venlafaxine. There are no randomized controlled trials versus other antidepressants, including venlafaxine. Studies were placebo controlled and of short duration (8 weeks). Desvenlafaxine is more expensive than venlafaxine and similar in cost to some SSRIs. 				

CATEGORY & PRODUCT	DIN/PIN	STRENGTH	PRESCRIBER	MFR	STATUS
Yaz[®] (drospirenone, ethinyl estradiol)	02321157	3mg/0.02mg Tab		BAY	NOT INSURED
Decision Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is more expensive than comparative products currently on the NS Formulary with no clear clinical advantage. 				

PHARMACARE REIMBURSEMENT

NEW INTERCHANGEABLE PRODUCTS

NEW CATEGORIES

A MAC has been established for the following products. Benefit status is effective May 27, 2010 and AAC will be paid until the specified MAC is effective June 17, 2010.

PRODUCT	DIN/PIN	MFR	PRESCRIBER	STATUS MAY 27, 2010	MAC JUNE 17, 2010	PHARMACARE ALLOWANCE
epirubicin HCl 2mg/mL inj						
Epirubicin HCl 2mg/mL Inj	02303892	AHC		NOT INSURED		
Pharmorubicin PFS 2mg/mL Inj	02065703	PFI		NOT INSURED		

New Categories Continued

PRODUCT	DIN/PIN	MFR	PRESCRIBER	STATUS MAY 27, 2010	MAC JUNE 17, 2010	PHARMACARE ALLOWANCE
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gemcitabine hydrochloride 1g/vial inj

Gemcitabine 1g/vial Inj	02324210	AHC		NOT INSURED		
Gemzar 1g/vial Inj	02230309	LIL		NOT INSURED		

mometasone 0.1% lot

Elocom 0.1% Lot	00871095	SCH	DR NP	SF	0.3123	
Taro-Mometasone 0.1% Lot	02266385	TAR	DR NP	SF	0.3123	

naratriptan 1mg tab

Amerge 1mg Tab	02237820	GSK	DR NP	E(SF)	7.7725	
Novo-Naratriptan 1mg Tab	02314290	NOP	DR NP	E(SF)	7.7725	

naratriptan 2.5mg tab

Amerge 2.5mg Tab	02237821	GSK	DR NP	E(SF)	8.2125	
Novo-Naratriptan 2.5mg Tab	02314304	NOP	DR NP	E(SF)	8.2125	

sibutramine 10mg cap

Apo-Sibutramine 10mg Cap	02337614	APX		NOT INSURED		
Meridia 10mg Cap	02243163	ABB		NOT INSURED		

sibutramine 15mg cap

Apo-Sibutramine 15mg Cap	02337622	APX		NOT INSURED		
Meridia 15mg Cap	02243164	ABB		NOT INSURED		

testosterone undecanoate 40mg cap

Andriol 40mg Cap	00782327	SCH	DR	SFC	0.7050	
pms-Testosterone 40mg Cap	02322498	PMS	DR	SFC	0.7050	

EXISTING CATEGORIES

Note: For those products with benefit status under the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs, the existing MAC for each category will apply.

PRODUCT	DIN/PIN	MFR	PRESCRIBER	STATUS APR 1,2010	MAC APRIL 1, 2010	PHARMACARE ALLOWANCE
ciprofloxacin 250mg tab						
MINT-Ciprofloxacin 250mg Tab	02317427	MNT	DR NP M	E(SFC)	1.3992	
ciprofloxacin 500mg tab						
MINT-Ciprofloxacin 500mg Tab	02317435	MNT	DR NP M	E(SFC)	1.5786	
desmopressin 0.1mg tab						
pms-Desmopressin 0.1mg Tab	02304368	PMS	DR NP	E(SFC)	0.9913	
desmopressin 0.2mg tab						
pms-Desmopressin 0.2mg Tab	02304376	PMS	DR NP	E(SFC)	1.9826	
memantine 10mg tab						
CO Memantine 10mg Tab	02324067	COB		NOT INSURED		
pms-Memantine 10mg Tab	02321130	PMS		NOT INSURED		
olanzapine ODT 5mg tab						
Novo-Olanzapine OD 5mg Tab	02321343	NOP	DR NP	E(SF)	1.7870	
Sandoz Olanzapine ODT 5mg Tab	02327775	SDZ	DR NP	E(SF)	1.7870	
olanzapine ODT 10mg tab						
Novo-Olanzapine OD 10mg Tab	02321351	NOP	DR NP	E(SF)	3.5713	
Sandoz Olanzapine ODT 10mg Tab	02327783	SDZ	DR NP	E(SF)	3.5713	
olanzapine ODT 15mg tab						
Novo-Olanzapine OD 15mg Tab	02321378	NOP	DR NP	E(SF)	5.3553	
Sandoz Olanzapine ODT 15mg Tab	02327791	SDZ	DR NP	E(SF)	5.3553	
olanzapine ODT 20mg tab						
Novo-Olanzapine OD 20mg Tab	02121386	NOP	DR NP	E(SF)	7.5977	
Sandoz Olanzapine ODT 20mg Tab	02327805	SDZ	DR NP	E(SF)	7.5977	

Existing Products Continued

PRODUCT	DIN/PIN	MFR	PRESCRIBER	STATUS APR 1,2010	MAC APRIL 1, 2010	PHARMACARE ALLOWANCE
pravastatin 10mg tab						
MINT-Pravastatin 10mg Tab	02317451	MNT	DR NP	SF	0.9530	
pravastatin 20mg tab						
MINT-Pravastatin 20mg Tab	02317478	MNT	DR NP	SF	1.1243	
pravastatin 40mg tab						
MINT-Pravastatin 40mg Tab	02317486	MNT	DR NP	SF	1.3543	
ramipril 1.25mg cap						
pms-Ramipril 1.25mg Cap	02295369	PMS	DR NP	SF	0.4550	
ramipril 2.5mg cap						
pms-Ramipril 2.5mg Cap	02247917	PMS	DR NP	SF	0.5250	
ramipril 5mg cap						
pms-Ramipril 5mg Cap	02247918	PMS	DR NP	SF	0.5250	-15%
ramipril 10mg cap						
pms-Ramipril 10mg Cap	02247919	PMS	DR NP	SF	0.6650	-15%
risperidone 0.25mg tab						
RBX-Risperidone 0.25mg Tab	02328305	RAN	DR NP	SF	0.2615	
risperidone 0.5mg tab						
RBX-Risperidone 0.5mg Tab	02328313	RAN	DR NP	SF	0.4378	
risperidone 1mg tab						
RBX-Risperidone 1mg Tab	02328321	RAN	DR NP	SF	0.6047	
risperidone 2mg tab						
RBX-Risperidone 2mg Tab	02328348	RAN	DR NP	SF	1.2075	
risperidone 3mg tab						
RBX-Risperidone 3mg Tab	02328364	RAN	DR NP	SF	1.8112	
risperidone 4mg tab						
RBX-Risperidone 4mg Tab	02328372	RAN	DR NP	SF	2.4150	

PRODUCT NAME AND MANUFACTURER CHANGE

Lanoxin 0.0625mg, 0.125mg and 0.25mg tablets have undergone a name and manufacturer change to Toloxin by MM Therapeutics Inc. The 0.0625mg strength will remain on the market under the Lanoxin name, while the 0.125mg and 0.25mg strengths have been discontinued.

PRODUCT	DIN/PIN	MFR	PRESCRIBER	STATUS APR 15,2010	MAC MAY 7, 2010	PHARMACARE ALLOWANCE
digoxin 0.0625mg tab						
Lanoxin 0.0625mg Tab	02242321	PMS	DR NP	SF	0.2395	
Toloxin 0.0625mg Tab	02335700	MMT	DR NP	SF	0.2395	

NEW PRESCRIBER

The following prescriber has been added to the list of prescribers under the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs.

Nurse Practitioner

Joanne Montgomery Prescriber # 726129

Please refer to the Nova Scotia Formulary for Pharmacare benefits which can be insured if prescribed by this group of prescribers.