



PharmacareNEWS

inside

Nova Scotia Formulary Updates

Coverage for Antiviral Therapies for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)

New Product

New Diabetic Products

New Ostomy product

New Exception Status Benefit

Non-Insured Products

Changes to Generic Drug Pricing

Nova Scotia Formulary

Pharmacare Reimbursement

Imitrex Injection and Pegasys RBV – New PINs for Different Package Sizes

MRP Categories Removed From the Pharmacare Reimbursement List

Transition Fees

Pharmacare News Bulletin Distribution

Included with this Bulletin

Payment Schedules - 2012

NS Pharmacare Reimbursement List – effective January 1, 2012

Discontinued Products

Nova Scotia Formulary Updates

Coverage for Antiviral Therapies for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)

Please be reminded that coverage for antiviral therapies for influenza is limited for use in long-term care (LTC) facilities when recommended by a Medical Officer of Health due to an outbreak of influenza-like or lab-confirmed influenza illness. The Department of Health and Wellness and the District Health Authority Public Health Services have guidelines in place to manage and treat outbreaks of influenza in LTC facilities. Copies of the guidelines are available from Public Health offices. For regional contact information, go to: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/DHW/about/phs-offices.asp>.

The criteria for coverage of oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza) under the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs remains as follows:

OSELTAMIVIR (*Tamiflu 30mg, 45mg, 75mg Capsule, 12mg/mL Oral Suspension*)

- for the treatment of long-term care residents with clinically suspected or lab confirmed influenza A or B. A clinically suspected case is one in which the patient meets the criteria of influenza-like illness and there is confirmation of influenza A or B circulating within the facility or surrounding community.
- for the prophylaxis of influenza A or B in long-term care residents where the facility has an outbreak.
- a protocol has been developed by Public Health for the treatment of patients in long-term care facilities. The facility must contact the Medical Officer of Health or local Public Health Office, who will notify the Pharmacare office (or dispensing pharmacy after office hours) if coverage is required.

Coverage For Antiviral Therapies for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) continued...

ZANAMIVIR (*Relenza 5mg Powder For Inhalation*)

- for the treatment of long-term care residents with clinically suspected or lab confirmed influenza A or B, when there is documented resistance to oseltamivir or when oseltamivir is contraindicated. A clinically suspected case is one in which the patient meets the criteria of influenza-like illness and there is confirmation of influenza A or B circulating within the facility or surrounding community.
- for the prophylaxis of influenza A or B in long term care residents where the facility has an outbreak, when there is documented resistance to oseltamivir or when oseltamivir is contraindicated.
- a protocol has been developed by Public Health for the treatment of patients in long-term care facilities. The facility must contact the Medical Officer of Health or local Public Health Office, who will notify the Pharmacare office (or dispensing pharmacy after office hours) if coverage is required.

New Product

The following product is a new listing to the Nova Scotia Formulary, effective **December 22, 2011**. The benefit status within the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs is indicated.

PRODUCT	STRENGTH	DIN/PIN	PRESCRIBER	BENEFIT STATUS	MFR
Valisone® (Betamethasone valerate)	0.1% Scalp Lot	00027944	DNPM	SF	VAL

New Diabetic Products

The following products are new listings to the Nova Scotia Formulary, effective **December 22, 2011**. The benefit status and PRP within the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs is indicated.

PRODUCT	DIN/PIN	PRP	PRESCRIBER	BENEFIT STATUS	MFR
Rightest® GS100 Test Strips (50)	97799479	0.5730	DNP	SFD	BNM
Rightest® GS100 Test Strips (100)	97799478	0.5580	DNP	SFD	BNM
NovoTwist® 30g (8mm) Tip Needles	97799467		DNP	SFD	NNO
NovoTwist® 32g (5mm) Tip Needles	97799468		DNP	SFD	NNO

New Ostomy Product

The following product is a new listing to the Nova Scotia Formulary, effective **December 22, 2011**.

PRODUCT	DIN/PIN	PRODUCT NUMBER	PRESCRIBER	BENEFIT STATUS	MFR
Sensura Flex Two-Piece	95098361	11505	DNP	SFC	COL

New Exception Status Benefit

The following product was reviewed by the Cancer Systemic Therapy Policy Committee (CSTPC) and will be listed with the following criteria, effective **December 22, 2011**

Product	Strength	DIN/PIN	Prescriber	Benefit Status	MFR
Afinitor® (everolimus)	2.5mg Tab	02369257	DNP	E(SFC)	NVR
	5mg Tab	02339501	DNP	E(SFC)	NVR
	10mg Tab	02339528	DNP	E(SFC)	NVR
Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a single agent for metastatic renal cell carcinoma (RCC) patients with documented clear cell histology who have a Karnofsky performance status of 70% or higher after progression or intolerance to the multi-targeted tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs), sunitinib and/or sorafenib. 				
Decision Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everolimus (Afinitor®) has been approved as a single agent for metastatic renal cell carcinoma (RCC) in patients with documented clear cell histology who have a Karnofsky performance status of 70% or higher after progression or intolerance to the multi-targeted tyrosine kinase inhibitors, sunitinib and/or sorafenib. 				

Non-Insured Products

The following products were reviewed by the Canadian Drug Expert Committee (CDEC), and were not recommended to be listed as insured benefits under the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs.

Product	Strength	DIN/PIN	Prescriber	Benefit Status	MFR
BuTrans® (buprenorphine)	5 Patch	02341174	N/A	Not Insured	PFR
	10 Patch	02341212	N/A	Not Insured	PFR
	20 Patch	02341220	N/A	Not Insured	PFR
Decision Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buprenorphine is an opioid receptor agonist and antagonist analgesic. In the three randomized controlled trials (RCTs), buprenorphine transdermal patch did not provide statistically significantly greater reductions in pain compared with oral opioid formulations. The frequency of gastrointestinal adverse effects was similar between buprenorphine transdermal patch and the oral opioid comparators. 				

Non-insured Products continued...

Product	Strength	DIN/PIN	Prescriber	Benefit Status	MFR
Zenhale® (formoterol fumarate dihydrate/mometasone furoate)	5/50mcg Inh	02361744	N/A	Not Insured	FRS
	5/100mcg Inh	02361752	N/A	Not Insured	FRS
	5/200mcg Inh	02361760	N/A	Not Insured	FRS
Decision Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zenhale® is a fixed dose combination of an inhaled corticosteroid (mometasone furoate) and a long-acting beta-agonist (LABA) (formoterol fumarate dihydrate). • The Committee considered the comparative clinical benefit of mometasone/formoterol to be uncertain. The only randomized controlled trial (RCT) designed to compare the efficacy of mometasone/formoterol with fluticasone/salmeterol in asthma (study 4705) was limited by its early termination at 12 weeks, open-label design, and a non-inferiority margin for the primary outcome that was of uncertain clinical relevance. • There are no RCTs in patients with asthma that compare the efficacy and safety of mometasone/formoterol with inhaled corticosteroid monotherapy marketed in Canada. 				
Product	Strength	DIN/PIN	Prescriber	Benefit Status	MFR
Victoza® (liraglutide)	6mg/mL Sol	02351064	N/A	Not Insured	NNO
Decision Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liraglutide is an analog of human glucagon-like peptide-1, the first of a new class of hypoglycemic agents. • Based on a systemic review including six randomized controlled trials (RCTs), liraglutide demonstrated similar or greater reductions in hemoglobin A1c in combination with metformin, or with metformin and sulfonylurea, compared with antihyperglycemic agents from other drug classes. Liraglutide was also associated with statistically significant weight loss compared with other drug classes. The clinical significance of these results with respect to diabetes-related morbidity and mortality is unknown for this new class of drug therapy. • The daily cost of liraglutide is greater than sulfonylureas, thiazolidinediones, dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitors, insulin NPH, and insulin analogues. 				

Non-Insured Products continued...

Product	Strength	DIN/PIN	Prescriber	Benefit Status	MFR
Nucynta CR® (tapentadol hydrochloride)	50mg Tab	02360373	N/A	Not Insured	JAN
	100mg Tab	02360381	N/A	Not Insured	JAN
	150mg Tab	02360403	N/A	Not Insured	JAN
	200mg Tab	02360411	N/A	Not Insured	JAN
	250mg Tab	02360438	N/A	Not Insured	JAN
Decision Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tapentadol is a centrally acting synthetic opioid analgesic thought to act as a mu-opioid agonist and through the inhibition of norepinephrine reuptake. • The Committee considered the data from three active-controlled double blind randomized controlled trials (RCTs) to be insufficient to determine the relative efficacy of tapentadol CR compared with oxycodone CR, due to the high and unbalanced frequency of patient withdrawals (tapentadol CR range, 44% to 48%; oxycodone CR range, 60% to 65%), much of which occurred during the initial three-week titration phase. • There are no RCTs comparing tapentadol CR with less costly long-acting opioid formulations of codeine, morphine or hydromorphone. 				

Product	Strength	DIN/PIN	Prescriber	Benefit Status	MFR
Invega® Sustenna® (paliperidone palmitate)	50mg/0.5mL Inj	02354217	N/A	Not Insured	JAN
	75mg/0.75mL Inj	02354225	N/A	Not Insured	JAN
	100mg/1mL Inj	02354233	N/A	Not Insured	JAN
	150mg/1.5mL Inj	02354241	N/A	Not Insured	JAN
Decision Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paliperidone palmitate is the active metabolite of risperidone. The Health Canada approved indication for paliperidone palmitate is schizophrenia. • The Committee recommended that Invega® Sustenna® not be listed due to a significant cost increase and no additional benefit to risperidone long acting injection. 				

The following product was reviewed by the Atlantic Expert Advisory Committee (AEAC) and was not recommended to be listed as an insured benefit under Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs.

Product	Strength	DIN/PIN	Prescriber	Benefit Status	MFR
Santyl® (collagenase)	250 Unit/G Oint	02063670	N/A	Not Insured	HPT
Decision Highlights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee recommended that Santyl® not be listed as a benefit due to lack of well-designed studies, and availability of less costly agents. 				

Changes to Generic Drug Pricing

The province has developed a plan to get fair drug prices for Nova Scotians and to slow the rapid growth of spending on drugs through Pharmacare. As a result, the price of generic drugs changed under the Pharmacare Programs on July 1, 2011. The second phase of the changes is January 1, 2012, and the generic prices are being reduced to 40% of the cost of the equivalent brand drug.

The maximum reimbursable price (MRP) for interchangeable generic drugs listed in the Nova Scotia Formulary is based on a percentage of the equivalent brand name drug for the majority of generic drugs. Some generic drugs have exceptions to the MRP formula, and their MRP will also be included in the Reimbursement List.

Included with this bulletin is the Reimbursement List with the pricing for the Pharmacare Programs. It contains the MRP and PRP for applicable drugs, and will be provided at each stage of the generic pricing plan. A copy of the Reimbursement List is available online at www.nspharmacare.ca.

For the products on the Reimbursement List, unless otherwise indicated, the MRP is effective **February 1, 2012**. Manufacturers will begin selling their products at the new lower price effective January 1, 2012.

As a result of the changes, the following products will no longer be eligible benefits as of **February 1, 2012**:

DIN	PRODUCT	DIN	PRODUCT
02348624	Atorvastatin 10mg tab (RPH)	02230205	pms-Captopril 50mg tab
02348632	Atorvastatin 20mg tab (RPH)	00816078	Vitamin B1 100mg/mL Inj
02348640	Atorvastatin 40mg tab (RPH)	02300095	pms-Enalapril 10mg tab
02348659	Atorvastatin 80mg tab (RPH)	02300087	pms-Enalapril 5mg tab
01942964	Novo-Captoril 12.5mg tab	02260913	ratio-Gabapentin 600mg tab
02230203	pms-Captopril 12.5mg tab	02260921	ratio-Gabapentin 800mg tab
02230204	pms-Captopril 25mg tab	02344092	Warfarin 6mg tab

Nova Scotia Formulary

The Nova Scotia Formulary details which drugs and supplies are benefits under the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs. The Formulary is provided on our website at www.nspharmacare.ca in PDF and searchable versions.

As a result of recent changes to the Programs we are looking at our options with regard to maintaining the online formulary. We will keep you posted as our review progresses. In the event of a discrepancy between the searchable formulary and the PDF, the PDF version is the most current version.

Pharmacare Reimbursement

Imitrex Injection and Pegasys RBV- New PINs for Different Package Sizes

Imitrex 6mg/0.5mL Injection (DIN 02212188) and Pegasys RBV 180mcg/0.5mL Inj / 200mg Tablets (DIN 02253429) have multiple package sizes under the same DIN. MLP pays according to package size, therefore, separate PINs have been developed. Effective immediately, please use the following DIN/PINs for billing:

IMITREX 6MG/0.5ML INJ	DIN/PIN
Refill cartridge (2 x 0.5mL)	02212188
Stat dose Kit (with case)	00999446
Unit dose (5 x 0.5mL- hospital only)	00901886

PEGASYS RBV 180MCG/0.5ML INJ / 200MG TAB	DIN/PIN
1 pre-filled syringe kit	02253429
4 pre-filled syringe kit	00999450

MRP Categories Removed From the Pharmacare Reimbursement List

The following MRP categories have been removed from the Pharmacare Reimbursement List. In categories which have become single source, MLP will be paid for the product, effective immediately.

CATEGORY & PRODUCT	DIN	MFR	STATUS
timolol maleate 0.25% oph gel			
Timoptic-XE 0.25% Oph Gel	02171880	FRS	MLP
Timolol Maleate-EX 0.25% Oph Gel	02242275	PMS	Discontinued
timolol maleate 0.25% oph gel			
Timoptic-XE 0.5% Oph Gel	02171899	FRS	MLP
Timolol Maleate-EX 0.25% Oph Gel	02242276	PMS	Discontinued

Transition Fees for the Period of September 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011

According to Section 6 of the Tariff Agreement, the provider is entitled to bill a transition fee up to \$0.10 per prescription. Transition fees are to be submitted with the dispensing fee. There will be no retroactive payment of transition fees.

Pharmacare News Bulletin Distribution

Beginning in early 2012, the Pharmacare News Bulletin will no longer be available in print copy. By publishing only in electronic format, Pharmacare will save on printing and distribution costs, while reducing the impact on the environment. This will apply to both the Pharmacists' Edition and the Physicians' Edition. Bulletins will be emailed to you either by your professional association or directly from Pharmacare. We encourage you to provide your association with your current email address so that you can continue to receive Pharmacare News Bulletins. All bulletins will continue to be available on our website at www.nspharmacare.ca. We will provide an effective date and more details as we finalize the process.