



December 2025

## 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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## Pharmacy benefit information

### New pharmacy benefit listings

Refer to the [Drug Benefit List](https://nihb-ssna.express-scripts.ca/en/040212) (nihb-ssna.express-scripts.ca/en/040212) to find all eligible products and criteria for coverage.

The following medications and products are now covered as open benefits without prior approval:

- **Vemlidy (tenofovir alafenamide)** for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B in adults

The following listings are covered as limited use benefits with prior approval:

- **Praluent (alirocumab)** pre-filled pens previously listed at 75mg/ml and 150mg/ml, now available in 300mg/2ml pre-filled pens, for the treatment of adult patients with high cholesterol
- **Venclexta (venetoclax)** for the treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)
- **Omlyclo (omalizumab)** for the treatment of severe asthma caused by an allergy
- **Fruzaqla (fruquintinib)** for the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer
- **Evkeeza (evinacumab)** for the treatment of adult and pediatric patients aged 5 years and older with very high cholesterol
- **Bylvay (odevixibat)** for the treatment of severe itching in patients with progressive familial intrahepatic cholestasis, a condition affecting the liver
- **Ultomiris (ravulizumab)** for the treatment of certain conditions affecting the nerves



## **Addition of Humira and Humira Citrate free to the biosimilar transition policy**

- Under the NIHB Biosimilar Transition Policy, clients 19 years of age and older who are taking certain medications are required to transition to the biosimilar version of their medication in order to maintain coverage
- This policy aligns with other provincial and territorial drug plans, and helps support consistent client access to medications and care
- Adalimumab (Humira and Humira Citrate free) is now included under this policy, in addition to Enbrel, Remicade and Rituxan
- Clients who are currently taking Humira and Humira Citrate free have until May 25, 2026 to transition to a biosimilar version of their medication in order to maintain coverage
- Make an appointment to speak with your health care provider if this change applies to you. Pharmacists and prescribers are well informed about biosimilars and have already helped many people transition to these medications
- Consult the Health Canada website for more information on [biosimilar biologic drugs](https://canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/biologics-radiopharmaceuticals-genetic-therapies/biosimilar-biologic-drugs.html) (canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/biologics-radiopharmaceuticals-genetic-therapies/biosimilar-biologic-drugs.html)

## **Medical supplies and equipment benefit information**

### **New coverage for enteral EnFit feeding syringes**

- NIHB now provides coverage for two new Enfit feeding syringe sizes: 3 cc/mL, and 20 cc/mL
- More information can be found in section [9.0 Self-care](#) of the NIHB Medical Supplies and Equipment Guide and Benefit Lists (available at: [canada.ca/nihb-medical-supplies-equipment](https://canada.ca/nihb-medical-supplies-equipment))

### **Addition of mental health counsellors as recommenders of gender Identity Items**

- NIHB now accepts mental health counsellors recognized by the program as eligible medical supplies and equipment recommenders for gender identity items, where allowed under their provincial and territorial scope of practice
- For more information on provider eligibility in your province or territory, please refer to section [9.0 Self-Care](#) of the NIHB Medical Supplies and Equipment Guide and Benefit Lists (available at: [canada.ca/nihb-medical-supplies-equipment](https://canada.ca/nihb-medical-supplies-equipment))

## **General program information**

### **Reminder: client web accounts**

- NIHB clients have the option of creating a secure, online personal account through the Express Scripts Canada NIHB Provider and Client Website
- Express Scripts Canada processes claims for NIHB pharmacy, medical supplies and equipment, dental, vision care and mental health counselling benefits



- Your secure web account can be used to view claims, and submit client reimbursement requests, and submit appeals
- To create an online web account, please visit [Client Benefits](https://nihb-ssna.express-scripts.ca/en) on the Express Scripts Canada website and click 'Create Web Account' (available at: <https://nihb-ssna.express-scripts.ca/en>)
- Account registration and password resets cannot be done on a mobile device. You must use a computer with a web browser (Internet Explorer, Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Safari or Mozilla Firefox)
- Your name, date of birth, and status or N number must match exactly as it appears on your First Nation status card or Inuit land claim beneficiary card to avoid issues with account creation
- If you have problems with your client account or need to reset your password, please contact NIHB Call Centre at Express Scripts Canada at 1-888-441-4777 for assistance



## NIHB client inquiries

*Email for general inquiries only. Do not send client reimbursement requests or appeals by email.*

**Email** [nihb-ssna@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:nihb-ssna@sac-isc.gc.ca)

**Alberta**  
General inquiries: 1-800-232-7301  
Email: [abnihbqa-qrssna@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:abnihbqa-qrssna@sac-isc.gc.ca)  
Medical Transportation: 1-800-514-7106  
Email: [eru-ure@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:eru-ure@sac-isc.gc.ca)

**Atlantic**  
1-800-565-3294  
Email: [nihb-atlnihb@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:nihb-atlnihb@sac-isc.gc.ca)

**British Columbia**  
NIHB clients (Inuit and non-resident First Nations) 1-800-232-7301  
First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)  
(First Nations BC residents) 1-855-550-5454

**Manitoba**  
General inquiries: 1-800-665-8507  
Medical Transportation: 1-877-983-0911

**Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Yukon** 1-888-332-9222

**Ontario** 1-800-640-0642

**Quebec**  
1-514-283-1575  
1-877-483-1575

**Saskatchewan**  
1-866-885-3933  
Email: [sasknihb\\_inquiries@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:sasknihb_inquiries@sac-isc.gc.ca)

**NIHB Drug Exception Centre  
(Pharmacy benefits)** 1-800-580-0950

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

**NIHB Call Centre at Express Scripts Canada** 1-888-441-4777

*For assistance with services provided by Express Scripts Canada, including NIHB client web accounts and submission of client reimbursement requests for pharmacy, dental, MS&E, vision care and mental health counselling benefits.*