



December 2023

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

Check the [drug benefit list](http://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 new listings are covered as limited use benefits with prior approval:

- **Scemblix (asciminib HCl)** for the treatment of adult patients with a specific type of leukemia
- **Dojolvi (triheptanoin)** for the treatment of patients with long-chain fatty acid oxidation disorder (LC-FAOD), a disease where the body has trouble breaking down fat for energy
- **Vraylar (cariprazine hydrochloride)** for the treatment of patients with schizophrenia
- **Retevmo (selpercatinib)** for the treatment of adult patients with thyroid cancer
- **Vabysmo (faricimab)** for the treatment of patients with diabetic macular edema or wet age-related macular degeneration
- **Givlaari (givosiran)** for the treatment of patients with acute hepatic porphyria, a rare genetic condition affecting the liver and nervous system
- **Firdapse (amifampridine phosphate)** for the treatment of patients with Lambert-Eaton Myasthenic Syndrome, a rare autoimmune disease
- **Byooviz (ranibizumab)** for the treatment of patients with certain eye disorders



Reminder: non-prescription products recommended by pharmacists

- NIHB accepts pharmacist recommendations for over-the-counter medications that are eligible for coverage
- This means you don't need a prescription from a doctor for coverage of non-prescription items on the NIHB drug benefit list when the product is recommended by a pharmacist
- Here are just a few examples of products that can be recommended by pharmacists for NIHB coverage:
 - smoking cessation products
 - prenatal multivitamin and folic acid
 - lice treatment
- Check the [NIHB drug benefit list](http://nihb-ssna.express-scripts.ca/en/040212) (nihb-ssna.express-scripts.ca/en/040212) to find eligible pharmacy benefits covered by NIHB, as well as any criteria for coverage
- More information on this policy can be found in section [3.12 of the Guide to Pharmacy Benefits](#) (canada.ca/nihb-pharmacy)

General program information

Reminder: changes to other coverage

- Please let NIHB know as soon as possible if there are changes to your other health benefit coverage (for example, through an employer sponsored plan)
- Clients whose other coverage has changed can update their information for one or more benefit areas by contacting the NIHB Call Centre at Express Scripts Canada (ESC) at 1-888-441-4777
- When contacting ESC, clients should specify which benefit areas are affected and the effective date of the change to their coverage status

Reminder: direct deposit

- Clients can receive reimbursement of processed NIHB claims by direct deposit. Direct deposit is a convenient, fast and secure way to receive payments
- Express Scripts Canada processes NIHB client reimbursement claims for pharmacy, dental, medical supplies and equipment, vision care and mental health counselling benefits. To receive payments by direct deposit:
 - visit the [Express Scripts Canada NIHB client reimbursement web page](http://nihb-ssna.express-scripts.ca/en) (nihb-ssna.express-scripts.ca/en > Client > NIHB Client Reimbursement)
 - fill out the *Direct Deposit and Communication Preference Form for NIHB Clients*, located at the bottom of the page, and return it to Express Scripts Canada by mail, fax, or through your client web account
- Client reimbursement requests for NIHB medical transportation benefits are processed by Indigenous Services Canada regional offices, or by communities administering medical transportation benefits through contribution agreements. Contact your [NIHB regional office](#)



(canada.ca/nihb-contacts), or community medical transportation coordinator for more information. To enroll for direct deposit:

- fill out the ISC Direct Deposit Request (<https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1592232608805/1592234588002#sec2>) form and return it to the mailing address indicated on the form
- Please note that reimbursement payments to someone other than the client (e.g. a community, or parent of a child under 16 years) can only be made by cheque

NIHB client inquiries	
<i>Email for general inquiries only. Do not send client reimbursement requests or appeals by email.</i>	
Email	nihb-ssna@sac-isc.gc.ca
Alberta	General inquiries: 1-800-232-7301 Email: abnihbqa-qrssna@sac-isc.gc.ca Medical Transportation: 1-800-514-7106 Email: sac.eru-ure.isc@canada.ca
Atlantic	1-800-565-3294 Email: 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 Mental Health Counselling: 1-877-583-2965



Saskatchewan	1-866-885-3933 Email: sac.sasknihb_inquiries.isc@canada.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 <i>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.</i>	