



March 2024

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 (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:

- **Imvexxy (estradiol)** vaginal insert for the treatment of painful intercourse after menopause

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

- **Jakavi (ruxolitinib phosphate)** for the treatment of complications after stem cell or bone marrow transplants, in clients aged 12 years and older
- **Beovu (brolucizumab)** for the treatment of some macular degeneration and diabetic eye disease
- **Vyepti (eptinezumab)** for the treatment of migraines

- **Lorbrena (lorlatinib)** for the treatment of certain lung cancers in adults
- **Xpovio (selinexor)** combined with other medications, for the treatment of myeloma, a cancer that affects white blood cells
- **Verzenio (abemaciclib)** and **Lynparza (olaparib)** for the treatment of breast cancers
- **Lenvima (lenvatinib mesylate)** for the treatment of endometrial or kidney cancer
- **Qinlock (ripretinib)** for the treatment of certain gastrointestinal tumors
- **Cibinqo (abrocitinib)** and **Rinvoq (upadacitinib)** for the treatment of moderate to severe eczema in clients aged 12 years and older
- **Tremfya (guselkumab)** for the treatment of plaque psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis
- **Tezspire (tezepelumab)** injections for the treatment of severe asthma in clients aged 12 years and older
- **Evenity (romosozumab)** for the treatment of osteoporosis after menopause
- **Rybelsus (semaglutide)** for the treatment of type 2 diabetes in adults used along with diet and exercise, metformin or other medications to lower blood sugar
- **Dexcom G7 system** for patients managing diabetes with insulin

Medical Supplies and Equipment benefits

Changes to oxygen benefits

- NIHB now provides coverage for M9 oxygen cylinders and moustache/pendant style oxygen conserving devices as limited use benefits. Prior approval is required
- For more information, please refer to section 5.0 Oxygen of the Medical supplies and equipment guide and benefit lists (www.canada.ca/nihb-medical-supplies-equipment)

Oxygen holders as open benefit

- NIHB now covers oxygen cylinder holders for walkers and wheelchairs. Prior approval is not required within NIHB unit price
- For more information, please refer to section 11.0 Mobility of the Medical supplies and equipment benefit lists (www.canada.ca/nihb-medical-supplies-equipment)

Licensed practical nurses/registered practical nurses as recommenders of standard and wheeled commodes

- NIHB now accepts recommendations from licensed practical nurses and registered practical nurses for coverage of standard and wheeled commodes
- For more information, please refer to section 9.2 of the Self-care equipment and supplies benefits list (www.canada.ca/nihb-medical-supplies-equipment)

Registered nurses as recommenders of offloading diabetic walking boots

- NIHB now recognizes registered nurses as eligible recommenders of offloading diabetic walking boots, and its custom-made foot bed liners

- For more information, please refer to section 3.4.8 of the Limb and body orthotics equipment and supplies benefit list (www.canada.ca/nihb-medical-supplies-equipment)

Mental health counselling benefit information

Updated frequency guidelines

- NIHB now aligns mental health counselling benefit coverage with the calendar year, from January 1 to December 31
- There is no change to the amount of benefit coverage available. NIHB clients are eligible for coverage of up to 22 hours of counselling every 12 months. Benefit coverage will refresh on January 1 each year
- In order to transition to calendar year frequency, going forward, prior approvals will be set with an end date of December 31. Providers have been advised of this change, and can submit new prior approval requests for 2025 as needed
- For more information on coverage and frequency guidelines, please see section 3.3 of the Guide to mental health counselling benefits (www.canada.ca/nihb-mental-health)

Vision care benefits

Reminder - coordination of benefits

- If clients are eligible for a vision care service that is covered through another health benefit plan or program (such as a provincial program or employer sponsored benefit plan), the other plan should be accessed before submitting the claim to NIHB
- Clients that have coverage through another plan are encouraged to let their vision care provider know before they receive the service, so the provider can update their client's profile and submit the claim to the other plan first
- Once the other plan has paid, any remaining eligible balance can be submitted to NIHB for reimbursement. The other plan will provide an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) which must be submitted to NIHB along with the NIHB client reimbursement form
- Any amount of NIHB coverage that a client has not used will remain available until the end of the frequency period
- If there are any changes to your coverage through another benefit plan, let your vision care provider know so they can update your information
- You can update NIHB about changes to other coverage by contacting the NIHB Call Centre at Express Scripts Canada (ESC) at 1-888-441-4777 or your NIHB regional office

Dental benefit information

Removal of predetermination requirement for the replacement of selected partial dentures

- A predetermination is no longer required for the replacement of selected partial dentures within frequency guidelines for:
 - Partial acrylic dentures, covered once in any five (5) year period
 - Partial cast dentures, covered once in any eight (8) year period
- NIHB encourages you to speak with your dental provider to confirm your eligibility prior to receiving the service
- More information can be found in the Dental Benefits Guide (www.canada.ca/nihb-dental)

Information on the Canadian Dental Care Plan

- The Canadian Dental Care Plan (www.canada.ca/dental) and the NIHB program both cover a broad and similar range of dental services
- There is no change to how First Nations and Inuit access dental coverage through NIHB. Eligible clients should continue to access the dental coverage available to them through Indigenous Services Canada's NIHB program
- If NIHB clients wish to apply to the Canadian Dental Care Plan, they should claim through the NIHB program first
- Indigenous Services Canada is working closely with Health Canada to ensure ongoing alignment of dental coverage between the two plans, and that NIHB clients can continue to receive all their federally funded dental care coverage through NIHB

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
Alberta	General inquiries: 1-800-232-7301 Email: abnihbqa-grssna@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

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.