

# June 2023

## Pharmacy benefit information

### New pharmacy benefit listings

Check the [drug benefit list](#) to find all eligible products and criteria for coverage

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

- **Elonox (enoxaparin sodium)** injections for deep vein thrombosis and ischemic cardiac disease
- **Zincofax (zinc oxide)** 15% cream for diaper rash and minor skin irritations
- **Cuvposa (glycopyrrolate)** oral liquid to reduce chronic severe drooling in children

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

- **Emgality (galcanezumab)** for the treatment of episodic or chronic migraines
- **Vitrakvi (larotrectinib)** for the treatment of some cancerous tumours in adults and children
- **Ngenla (somatrogon)** for the long-term treatment of children who have a growth hormone deficiency
- **Bimzelx (bimekizumab)** 160 mg/mL pre-filled syringe injection and auto-injector for the treatment of moderate to severe plaque psoriasis in adults
- **Ruzurgi (amifampridine)** tablets for the treatment of Lambert-Eaton Myasthenic Syndrome (LEMS)
- **Brukinsa (zanubrutinib)** capsules for the treatment of adults with Waldenström macroglobulinemia (WM)
- **Oralair (grass pollen allergen extract)** tablets for the treatment of grass pollen allergies, if other medications haven't worked
- **Rupall (rupatadine)** 10 mg tablet and 1mg/ml oral solution antihistamine for clients who can't take other antihistamines
- **Blexten (bilastine)** tablet or oral solution antihistamine for clients who can't take other antihistamines
- **Biphentin (methylphenidate hydrochloride)** for the treatment of Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- **Intuniv (guanfacine hydrochloride)** for the treatment of Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

### Coverage change for Shingrix

- NIHB now covers Shingrix as an open benefit for clients 60 years and older. It was previously listed as an open benefit for clients 65 years and older
- NIHB continues to consider coverage for immunocompromised clients under 60 years of age on an exceptional basis (prior approval required)
- Shingrix is a vaccine to prevent shingles, which is caused by the re-activation of the virus that causes chickenpox
  - Shingles causes a painful rash and can be severe in some people
  - The risk of shingles is higher in seniors and in people with weaker immune systems
- The vaccine is given in 2 doses, from 2 to 6 months apart. To maximize the protection offered by Shingrix, it is important that you get both doses
  - When you get your first dose, ask your doctor or pharmacist to schedule your next dose
- In most provinces and territories, the Shingrix vaccine can often be administered in pharmacies and pharmacists can bill NIHB for an injection fee. Contact your pharmacy first to confirm that they have it in stock and if they can administer the injection
- If you are unable to have the vaccine administered at a pharmacy, ask your health care provider about other options

## Medical supplies and equipment benefit information

### Change of listing status for certain items

- NIHB changed the listing status to open benefit for some self-care and mobility items
- Prior approval is no longer required for coverage of these items:
  - specialized crutches
  - tub transfer board
  - toilet tissue aid
  - positioning wedge
- Refer to sections [9.0 Self-care](#), and [11.0 Mobility](#) of the Medical supplies and equipment guide and benefit lists for more information

## Vision care benefit information

### Update to the guide to vision care benefits

- NIHB has updated the guide to vision care benefits to clarify eligibility criteria for protective and light blocking eyewear for clients who have low vision, are legally blind or have only one functioning eye
- To be eligible for coverage, clients must have a valid prescription from a licensed vision care professional
- For more information, refer to sections [3.1 Eligible services](#) and [3.6 Low vision aids, ocular prosthesis and medication](#) of the guide to vision care benefits

## General program information

### 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, submit client reimbursement requests and appeals
- To create an online web account, please visit [Client Benefits](#) on the Express Scripts Canada website and click 'Create Web Account'
- 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 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](tel:1-888-441-4777) for assistance