POLICY UPDATES

Please be advised that the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP) has made a number of updates to its policies and the associated rules contained in the real-time adjudication system.

These policies replace/update any previous Program policy communications concerning the items listed.

The changes you may notice apply to the following:

1. Blood Glucose Test Strips
2. Days supply for antidepressant/antipsychotic medication claims
3. HP Pak
4. Pediapred
5. Anti-emetic coverage for patients receiving chemotherapy

1. Blood Glucose Test Strips

Beneficiaries who are not on insulin or oral hypoglycemic medications but are being followed by a diabetes nurse educator, dietician, nurse practitioner or family physician (with a letter to confirm same) can apply for special authorization consideration. If approved, a special authorization will be entered into the system with a 2500 test strip per 365-day period limit. If a beneficiary exceeds this limit, (s)he is required to submit a letter to the Program from a prescriber indicating the rationale for requiring greater than 2500 blood glucose test strips per 365-day period, in addition to the number of times a day the beneficiary is required to test. If approved, a special authorization will be entered into the system.

2. Antidepressant and antipsychotic medications

and injectable agents (excluding long acting) each of which shall be dispensed as written, to a maximum of a 30-days supply.

3. HP Pak (DIN 2238525)

The system will limit claims to one HP Pak within a 90-day period. A special authorization would be required for additional claims within this 90-day period.

4. Pediapred (DIN 02230619)

is an open benefit for children 12 years of age and under. (Previously the age limit was 6 years of age and under). Beneficiaries who require Pediapred but who are over the age of 12 must apply for special authorization consideration.
5. Chemotherapy Anti-emetics

**Ondansetron 4mg and 8mg tab:** up to 3 tablets in a 24 hour period

**Granisetron 1mg tab:** up to 2 tablets in a 24 hour period

**Dolasetron 100mg tab:** 1 tablet in a 24 hour period

One of the above medications, in the quantities specified, can be claimed once in a 365-day period as open benefit. Subsequent claims, or claims for greater than the above quantities, will require special authorization. Requests should include chemotherapy regimen, including medications, the number of days of treatment per cycle, the frequency of cycles, and the expected number of cycles in total, as well as details of other antiemetics tried.

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**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR INTERCHANGEABLE DRUG PRODUCTS FORMULARY**

**New Categories Effective June 22, 2010**
- Finasteride 5mg
- Letrozole 2.5mg
- Desloratadine 5mg*

**New Categories Effective August 11, 2010**
- Atorvastatin 10mg
- Atorvastatin 20mg
- Atorvastatin 40mg
- Atorvastatin 80mg
- Nifedipine Extended Release 30mg
- Warfarin 6mg
- Diclofenac Sodium 50mg Suppository
- Diclofenac Sodium 100mg Suppository

*Not covered by NLPDP

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**CHANGES TO THE NLPDP BENEFIT LISTING**

**New open benefits for Foundation, 65Plus, Access and Assurance Plans**

- **Tecta 40mg** (pantoprazole magnesium) DIN 02267233: Allowed Quantity Per Day = 1 Per Day
- **Celebrex 100mg and 200mg** (DIN 2239941 and DIN 2239942): For beneficiaries 65 years of age and older

**Special Authorization**

Coverage criteria can be viewed at: [http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/nlpdp/sadsearch.asp](http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/nlpdp/sadsearch.asp)

The following medications are now being considered under special authorization for Foundation, Access, 65Plus and Assurance Plans:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tecta 40mg DIN 02267233</th>
<th>GERD, Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome, gastric/duodenal ulcers, H Pylori eradication, gastro-duodenal protection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doses &gt;40mg daily</td>
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</table>

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**SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FORMS**

Special Authorization request forms are available on the Department of Health and Community Services website [http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/forms/index.html#4](http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/forms/index.html#4) in the Forms and Applications section. There is a standard form as well as specialized forms for Cholinesterase Inhibitors, Clopidogrel, Sevelamer, Methadone, Crohn’s Disease medications (anti-TNF agents), Psoriasis and Rheumatoid Arthritis medications. These forms are a good guide as to what information is needed for assessment for coverage and are being updated regularly to reflect NLPDP changes. Older forms should not be used.