Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program Changes

Since February 2007 there have been many changes within the NLPDP. The most visible changes are the implementation of a new Real-Time Adjudication System and the addition of two new drug plans to provide further financial assistance in the purchase of eligible prescription medications for those who reside in the province. Along with those new plans came across the board plan name changes. Plans available under the NLPDP are:

The Foundation Plan providing 100 per cent coverage of eligible prescription drugs for persons and families in receipt of income support benefits through the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment, and certain individuals receiving services through the Regional Health Authorities, including children in the care of Child, Youth and Family Services, and individuals in supervised care. This plan was formerly known as the Income Support Drug Program.

The 65Plus Plan providing coverage of eligible prescription drugs to residents 65 years of age and older who receive Old Age Security benefits and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). Coverage does not include professional (i.e. dispensing) fees. This plan was formerly known as the Senior Citizens Drug Subsidy Program.

The Access Plan giving individuals and families with low incomes access to eligible prescription medications. The amount of coverage is determined by net income level and family status. This plan was formerly known as the Low Income Drug Program.

The Assurance Plan offering protection for individuals and families against the financial burden of eligible high drug costs, whether be it from the cost of one extremely high-cost drug or the combined cost of different drugs.

The NLPDP also continues to provide 100 per cent coverage for disease specific medications and supplies for patients with Cystic Fibrosis and Growth Hormone Deficiency.

The Real-Time Adjudication System is an online, billing system that improves service delivery for pharmacists and NLPDP beneficiaries, by allowing drug claims under the NLPDP to be adjudicated as soon as pharmacists enter prescriptions in their computer. This means that any issues with the claim are identified and reported immediately to the pharmacist. This system also allows for improved patient access to medication as beneficiaries can now access most Special Authorization medications that they have approval for from any pharmacy in the province.
The Newfoundland and Labrador Interchangeable Formulary
New Categories Effective January 1, 2008:

- Benazepril Hydrochloride 5mg and 10mg Tablets
- Olanzapine 2.5mg, 5mg, 7.5mg, 10mg and 15mg Tablets
- Cefprozil 250mg and 500mg Tablets
- Cefprozil 125mg/5ml and 250mg/5ml Suspension
- Levonorgestrel / Ethinyl Estradiol 0.15mg/0.03mg Tablets
- Flucicasone Propionate 50mcg/metered dose Spray
- Enalapril Maleate 2.5mg, 5mg, 10mg and 20mg Tablets
- Sumatriptan 25mg, 50mg and 100mg Tablets

CHANGES TO THE NLPDP BENEFIT LISTING

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

- D-Forte Capsules DIN 02237450
- Cortimyxin Ophthalmic Ointment DIN 02242485

Special Authorization
Coverage criteria can be viewed at http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/nlpdp/

The following medications are now being considered under Special Authorization for Foundation, 65Plus, Access and Assurance Plans

- Sprycel 20mg, 50mg and 70mg for CML (DINs 2293129, 2293137 and 2293145)
- Novo-Enoxaparin (DINs 02265206, 02265214, 02265222, 02265220 and 02265249)
- Pegasys 180ug injection for Hepatitis C (DINs 02248077 and 02248078)

As notified previously, wet nebulized therapies including the following, will be moved from open benefit status to Special Authorization (SA) status effective January 1, 2008.
Requests for SA for patients in whom conversion is not appropriate, should be forwarded to this department prior to this date. The criteria for coverage are available on our web site.

- Ipratropium Nebules
- Salbutamol Nebules
- Ipratropium/Salbutamol Nebules

Sodium Cromoglycate Nebules
Budesonide Nebules

New Special Authorization Pre-Approval Coverage
Norvasc 5mg (DIN 878928) and 10mg (DIN 878936) will now be covered WITHOUT a Special Authorization request as long as the beneficiary’s medication history in the NLPDP database shows the prior use of a benefit calcium channel blocker within the past year. Benefit calcium channel blockers are available as brand name and generic medications that include Nifedipine, Felodipine, Diltiazem or Verapamil. If there is no history of a previous benefit calcium channel blocker claim, the normal Special Authorization Process will be required.

The following special authorization medications have new coverage criteria:

- Femara 2.5mg for Breast Cancer
- Arimidex 1mg for Breast Cancer
- Aromasin 25mg for Breast Cancer
- Carvediol 3.125mg, 6.25mg, 12.5mg and 25mg for stable symptomatic heart failure
- VFend 50mg and 200mg for culture proven invasive candidiasis