



Department of Health  
and Community Services

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## Behind the Scenes

### Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP)

#### Cholinesterase Inhibitor (ChEI) Coverage

The recommendation to add the cholinesterase inhibitors as special authorization drug benefits was made by the Atlantic Expert Advisory Committee as part of the Atlantic Common Drug Review process. The Committee also recommended that the drugs be part of a comprehensive strategy around the management of AD.

Effective September 1, 2006 NLPDP is considering coverage of **cholinesterase inhibitors (Aricept, Reminyl, Exelon)** in patients who have:

- A diagnosis of probable or possible Alzheimer's Disease (AD)
- A Mini-Mental-State Examination (MMSE) score of 10-30
- A Functional Assessment of Stage (FAST) score of 4-5

Initial coverage will be for a six month period. Requests for continued coverage for a second six month period and for subsequent annual coverage must come from physicians.

Continuation of coverage of ChEIs will involve updated MMSE and FAST scores as well as using a method to evaluate clinically meaningful changes following the initiation of a ChEI by identifying the problematic symptoms (or target symptoms) associated with AD in that patient and monitoring whether these symptoms improve, deteriorate or stabilize over time. Target symptoms generally fit into one of four domains:

- Cognition
- Function
- Behaviour
- Social/leisure

When target symptoms are identified, they must be observable and measurable so they can be monitored throughout the course of therapy. Assessment of changes in these symptoms can be done by either the caregiver or physician.

Requests for coverage will **only** be considered when submitted on **Cholinesterase Inhibitor Special Authorization Request Forms** completed by designated prescribers, such as specialists in Geriatric Medicine, Neurology and Psychiatry and those physicians who have completed either the *Prescribing Cholinesterase Inhibitors* CME, MAINPRO-C credits through CFPC in AD/dementia management or a related fellowship. There is a form for the initial request for coverage and another for continuation of coverage. These will be available in September at the live CME presentation, from the NLPDP office (709-729-6507 or 1-888-222-0533 or fax 709-729-2851), and on our web site at [http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/nlpdp/cholinesterase\\_inhibitors.htm](http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/nlpdp/cholinesterase_inhibitors.htm)

### **Physician Special Authorization Notification**

Physicians can now receive notification of special authorization approvals by fax. Avoid delay by postal service and receive notification the same day as pharmacies. Contact NLPDP at **753-3615** or **1-888-724-7760** for a form to request the change from mail to fax notification.

### **CHANGES TO THE NLPDP BENEFIT LISTING**

#### **New open benefits:**

1. Aviva Test Strips
2. Multiclix Lancets
3. Gen-Mirtazapine 15mg
4. PMS-Mirtazapine 15mg

See Bulletin #21 for benefit additions due Interchangeable Formulary additions at <http://nlpdp.xwave.com>

#### **Drug Reviews Completed and Not Considered for Coverage:**

The **Common Drug Review (CDR)** reviews new drugs and provides an evidence-based formulary listing recommendation, made by the [Canadian Expert Drug Advisory Committee \(CEDAC\)](#), on behalf of publicly-funded drug plans. The review for the following product was completed by the Common Drug Review and coverage was not recommended. As such, this product will not be considered for coverage under the NLPDP. CEDAC recommendations can be viewed at [www.cadth.ca](http://www.cadth.ca)

**Levemir**  
**Macugen**  
**Somavert**

#### **The Newfoundland and Labrador Interchangeable Formulary:**

##### **New Categories:**

##### **Additions:**

Azithromycin 250mg and 600mg Tablets  
Bicalutamide 50mg Tablets  
Glimepiride 1mg, 2mg and 4mg  
Diclofenac Potassium Rapide 50mg Tablets  
Diltiazem HCL 120mg, 180mg, 240mg, 300mg and 360mg Capsules  
Isosorbide-5-Mononitrate 60mg Tablets  
Levetiracetam 250mg, 500mg, and 750mg Tablets  
Benazepril Hydrochloride 20mg Tablets  
Methylphenidate SR 20mg Tablets  
Metronidazole 500mg Capsules  
Leflunomide 10mg and 20mg Tablets  
Terconazole Vaginal Cream 0.4%  
Phenytoin Oral Suspension 125mg/5ml