



Department of Health
and Community Services

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Spring 2007

Behind the Scenes

Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP)

CHANGE IN REQUIREMENT FOR REQUESTING COVERAGE OF CHOLINESTERASE INHIBITORS

As of February 1, 2007, Designated Prescriber status is no longer required to request coverage of Cholinesterase Inhibitors. All other requirements for coverage remain in effect. These medications are covered through the Special Authorization Process with specific criteria. Requests for coverage are required to be written on the appropriate Coverage of Cholinesterase Inhibitors request form. Coverage criteria and request forms can be found at:

http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/nlpdp/cholinesterase_inhibitors.htm

An online course, **Prescribing of Cholinesterase Inhibitors for Patients with Dementia**, is now available through www.MDcme.ca as well as in a DVD/CD format for prescribers interested in learning how assessment tools can aid to screen patients for treatment and to measure their response. Copies of the DVD/CD can be requested by e-mail at mdcme@mun.ca or by telephone at 1-800-299-0676.

WET NEBULIZATION CONVERSION PROJECT

The Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP) has launched an initiative to support the conversion of wet nebulized therapy (WN) to metered-dose inhalers (MDI), with or without a spacer device, or dry powder inhalers (DPI). This initiative involves moving nebulized solutions to Special Authorization status, with the establishment of special authorization criteria. Appropriate educational initiatives with key stakeholders will also be undertaken. The conversion project is consistent with best practice guidelines for the delivery of inhaled medications in patients with asthma and/or COPD. Both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have successfully implemented similar program changes in recent years.

In conjunction with the Respiratory Committee Working Group, consisting of respirologists, pharmacists, a respiratory therapist, and a representative from the NL Lung Association, Special Authorization criteria have been established to accommodate patients for whom a dry delivery method (with or without a spacer device) is inappropriate. This includes patients with a respiratory rate greater than 25 breaths per minute; adults with a vital capacity of 900 ml or less; as well as those patients who have demonstrated they cannot follow instructions, cannot hold the spacer device or cannot hold the device long enough to actuate it, or other situations as deemed appropriate.

Work is ongoing with Professional Development & Conferencing at MUN to provide the educational component of this initiative. It is hoped that educational session(s) will take place in Spring 2007.

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:

Trelstar 3.75mg and 11.25mg
Advicor 1000/20 and 500/20
Duotrav
PMS-Citalopram 10mg
Alvesco 100mcg and 200mcg inhalers
Hydro Val 0.2% cream and ointment

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:

Norprolac
Trosec
Risperdal M-Tab
Vfend

The following special authorization medications have new coverage criteria:

Aranesp for hematologic malignancies
Humira for psoriatic arthritis

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 participating publicly-funded drug plans. Reviews for the following products were completed by the Common Drug Review and coverage was not recommended. As such, these products will not be considered for coverage under the NLPDP. CEDAC recommendations can be viewed at www.cadth.ca

Amevive	Cipralex	Hepsera
Fosavance	Vesicare	Somavert
Enablex	Xolair	Lantus
NovoMix 30	Levemir	Altace Plus Felopidine