GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Department of Health
and Community Services

Topic Suggestions....Contact:
Pharmaceutical Services, Dept. of
Health and Community Services
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6
Tel: 729-6507; Fax 729-2851

Summer 2006

Behind the Scenes

Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP)

TAMPER RESISTANT PRESCRIPTION DRUG PAD PROGRAM

Changes to Program Policy, Guidance Brochure and Schedule of Drugs

An updated Program brochure detailing the changes listed below can be downloaded from the Government web site at www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/nlpdp/drugpadprogram.htm or a print copy can be ordered by calling 709-729-1557.

- Inclusion of Newfoundland and Labrador College of Veterinarians and update of other organization names.
- Clarification that benzodiazepines are not included in the scheduleof drugs and are not required to be written on the tamper resistant prescription pad.
- Maximum quantity per order set at 10 pads, due to security issues
- Information as to how to report the suspected theft of prescription pads, with contact numbers for the police
- Information as to how to report suspected fraud
- Bolded statement regarding faxed prescriptions, clarifying that the original is not to be given to the patient
- Clarification of prescribing by quantity versus duration, and proper completion of a prescription
- Prescribing format and proper completion of a prescription – updated example that includes a part-fill situation
- Instructions for completion section has been updated to clarify when the section on 'name of pharmacy to dispense' is required to be completed.
- Updated Schedule of Drugs, including the addition of
  - Mixed salts amphetamine
  - Phenobarbital
  - Ketamine
  - Cannabidiol
  - Dronabinol (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol)
- Updated Fax order form, indicating maximum allowable quantity per order.

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:

Methotrexate 10mg tablets (DIN 2182750)

Asacol 800mg tablets

Atropine 0.6mg/mL injection (DIN 392693)

Special Authorization

Starting in **September 2006,** coverage of **cholinesterase inhibitors (Aricept, Reminyl, Exelon)** will be considered for clients who qualify under the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program and who meet the criteria for coverage. CME events introducing coverage criteria and the special authorization process are planned for St. John's and central Newfoundland in September. A web-based CME is also being developed and will be available in coming weeks. Special authorization request forms will be available in September at the live CME presentations, from the NLPDP office, and on our web site at www.gov.nl.ca/health/nlpdp .

The following special authorization medications have new coverage criteria for the diagnoses indicated:
Lamotrigine for bipolar disorder
Zyprexa for bipolar disorder maintenance
Eprex for hematological malignancy
Risperdal Consta for schizophrenia

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

Xolair
Lyrica

The **Atlantic Common Drug Review (ACDR)** is a regional review process that provides evidence-based recommendations for coverage of new indications and line extensions for existing medications. Drug evaluation summaries are prepared by independent reviewers based on the manufacturer's drug submission and a systematic literature search. The drug evaluation summary is presented to the Atlantic Expert Advisory Committee who recommends the place in therapy. It is then up to each individual province to make a decision as to the coverage status. A review for the following product was completed by the ACDR and coverage was not recommended. As such, this product will not be considered for coverage under the NLPDP.

Zelnorm