

Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program

Listing Status and Criteria of Various Analgesic Options – April 2017

Drug Class	Listing status	Criteria	Process / Notes
NSAIDs			
Traditional e.g. naproxen, ibuprofen, diclofenac	Open	n/a	Rx only, no forms required
COX-2 (e.g. Celebrex)	Limited Use	History of serious GI complications (e.g. ulcer, bleeding, perforation); OR At least two risk factors for serious gastrointestinal complications (e.g. age >60, concurrent use of ASA, SSRIs, corticosteroids, anticoagulants or antiplatelet agents).	Form faxed to prescriber to verify client meets criteria. Info provided confirmed against drug profile. Drug currently under listing review by NIHB. In the interim, plan to allow for approval when prescribed by a rheumatologist.
Arthrotec (NSAID + misoprostol)	Open	n/a	Rx only, no forms required
NSAID + PPI Vimovo	Non-benefit	n/a - Clients can use single agent NSAID + PPI at lower cost.	Appeal only.
Opioids Note: all opioids are subject to dose limit & 30 day supply/dispense. Exceeding dose limit requires justification			
Opioid + acetaminophen	Open with dose limit	Maximum daily dose = 3600 mg acetaminophen /day	
Short-acting opioids	Open with dose limit		Rx only, no forms required
Long-acting BID morphine	Open with dose limit		Rx only, no forms required
Long-acting codeine	Limited Use with dose limit	Chronic pain and palliative care patients as an alternative to products containing codeine combos (e.g. Tylenol #3) OR as an alternative to regular release codeine tablets when large doses are required.	Form faxed to prescriber to verify client meets criteria. Info provided confirmed against drug profile
Long-acting hydromorphone	Limited Use with dose limit	For treatment of moderate to severe chronic pain when other opioids such as morphine have been ineffective in controlling pain or in patients experiencing intolerable side effects.	Form faxed to doctor to verify client meets criteria. Information provided confirmed against drug profile
Once daily morphine (Kadian)	Limited Use with dose limit	For the treatment of chronic pain OR For the treatment of opioid dependence where methadone and Suboxone are not available or not appropriate	Form faxed to prescriber to verify client meets criteria. Info provided confirmed against drug profile
Fentanyl patches	Limited Use with dose limit	For the management of chronic pain in patients who are unresponsive or intolerant to at least one long-acting oral opioid (e.g. morphine, hydromorphone or oxycodone), despite appropriate dose titration and adjunctive therapy including laxatives and antiemetics.	Form faxed to prescriber to verify client meets criteria. Info provided confirmed against drug profile
BuTrans patches	Non-benefit		Appeal only
Methadone (for pain) (Metadol)	Limited Use	Prescriber is registered with Health Canada and is eligible to prescribe methadone for the management of pain. AND For the management of moderate to severe cancer pain or chronic non-cancer pain, as an alternative to other opioids. OR, For the management of pain for palliative care patients.	Form faxed to prescriber to verify client meets criteria. Info provided confirmed against drug profile
Long acting oxycodone (OxyNeo)	Exception		Form faxed to prescriber. Info provided confirmed against drug profile.
Oral adjunctive pain treatments			
SSRIs	Open	n/a	Rx only, no forms required

Gabapentin	Open with dose limit	Maximum dose: 4000 mg/day	Rx only, no forms required
Pregabalin (Lyrica)	Limited use	For the treatment of neuropathic pain in patients who have failed to effectively treat their pain with a tricyclic antidepressant (TCA) or who have a contraindication or intolerance with a TCA. Maximum dose: 600mg/day	Form faxed to prescriber to verify client meets criteria. Information provided confirmed against drug profile
Duloxetine (Cymbalta)	Open	n/a	Rx only, no forms required
Desvenlafaxine (Pristiq)	Non-benefit	n/a	Client must appeal with supporting letter from prescriber.
Nabilone (Cesamet)	Limited Use	For patients who are experiencing nausea and vomiting due to cancer chemotherapy or radiation OR patient is palliative. Also considered on exception for other pain conditions where all other adjunctive treatments have failed.	Form faxed to prescriber to verify client meets criteria. Information provided confirmed against drug profile.
Tricyclic anti-depressants	Open	n/a	Rx only, no forms required
Other anticonvulsants e.g. valproate, topiramate	Open	n/a	Rx only, no forms required
Corticosteroid injections			
Depo-medrol, Kenalog	Open	n/a	Rx only, no forms required
Viscosupplementation			
Hyaluronic acid joint injections (e.g. Synvisc, Durolane, Orthovisc, Hyalgan, Suplasyn)	Exception	OA of the knee when other treatments failed. Other joints not considered for approval.	Form faxed to prescriber. Information provided confirmed against drug profile.
Topical preparations			
Diclofenac 1.5% topical solution (generic Pennsaid)	Limited Use	For the treatment of osteoarthritis when: pain is inadequately controlled with acetaminophen AND a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) OR there is contraindication or intolerance to acetaminophen and NSAID OR prescribed by rheumatologist.	Form faxed to prescriber to verify client meets criteria. Information provided confirmed against drug profile
Lidocaine in ointment or transdermal gel	Exception		Form faxed to prescriber. Information provided confirmed against drug profile.
Diclofenac or ketoprofen in transdermal gel	Exception		Form faxed to prescriber. Information provided confirmed against drug profile.