

Bulletin #593

April 30, 2004

BENEFIT CHANGES TO NBPDP

This update to the New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program (NBPDP) Formulary is effective April 30, 2004.

Included in this bulletin:

- **Regular Benefit Additions**
Claims for these products will be reimbursed at actual acquisition cost (AAC).
- **Special Authorization Additions**
- **Drugs Reviewed and Not Listed**

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If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at 1-800-332-3691.

Yours truly,

Debbie LeBlanc
New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program

REGULAR BENEFIT ADDITIONS

Drug/Form/Route/Strength	Brandname	DIN	Manufacturer	Plans	\$
Fluoxetine Hydrochloride Cap Orl 40mg	FXT40[®]	2245283	ORX	AEVW	AAC
Atenolol Tab Orl 25mg	pms-Atenolol[®]	2246581	PMS	AEFGVW	AAC

SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION ADDITIONS

Budesonide/Formoterol

(Symbicort[®])

100mcg/6mcg and 200mcg/6mcg
metered dose inhaler

For patients with reversible obstructive airways disease who are

- Stabilized on an inhaled corticosteroid and a long-acting beta₂-agonist, or
- Using optimal doses of inhaled corticosteroids but are still poorly controlled

Fentanyl

(Duragesic[®])

25mcg/hr, 50mcg/hr, 75mcg/hr
and 100mcg/hr
transdermal system

For the management of malignant or chronic non-malignant pain

- When oral drug administration is not possible or practical
- In patients who are unresponsive or intolerant to at least two long acting oral sustained release products such as morphine and hydromorphone, despite appropriate dose titration and adjunctive therapy including laxatives and antiemetics.

Latanoprost/Timolol

(Xalacom[®])

50mcg/5mg/mL
ophthalmic solution

For the reduction of intraocular pressure in patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension who are insufficiently responsive to monotherapy with a beta-blocker and a prostaglandin analog, and when the use of the combination drug is considered appropriate.

Valganciclovir

(Valcyte[®])

450mg tablets

For the treatment of cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis in HIV positive patients on the advice of an infectious disease specialist.

Peginterferon alfa-2b+Ribavirin
(*Pegatron*[®])
injection + 200mg capsules

Requests will be considered from internal medicine specialists for the treatment of chronic hepatitis C (HCV RNA positive)

- Initial coverage of 24 weeks will be approved for all patients. Coverage for an additional 24 weeks will be approved for patients with HCV genotype 1.
- A positive HCV RNA assay after 24 weeks of therapy is an indication to stop treatment.
- Interferon monotherapy should be reserved for patients who cannot tolerate ribavirin.

Risedronate
(*Actonel*[®])
35mg once-a-week tablets

For the treatment of osteoporosis when hormone replacement therapy (HRT) is declined, not tolerated or contraindicated.

Osteoporosis is defined as a bone mineral density (BMD) at least 2.5 standard deviations below the young adult mean (T score = -2.5) and/or the presence of osteoporotic fractures. (World Health Organization definition)

Sirolimus
(*Rapamune*[®])
1mg tablets

- Rescue therapy in solid organ transplant for patients with refractory rejection on Neoral/MMF/prednisone (NMP) or tacrolimus/MMF/prednisone (TMP).
- Prophylaxis for acute rejection in solid organ transplant when a patient is unable to tolerate NMP or TMP combinations as a result of, or in anticipation of, adverse effects.

Note: These criteria are used at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre. Criteria used by other referring transplant centres will be considered.

Somatropin
(*Humatrope*[®])
1mg, 6mg, 12mg and 24mg
injection
(*Saizen*[®])
3.33mg and 5mg injection

- For the treatment of short stature associated with Turner's Syndrome in patients whose epiphyses are not closed
 - Must be prescribed by, or in consultation with, an endocrinologist
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DRUGS REVIEWED AND NOT LISTED

The reviews of the following products found that they did not offer a therapeutic and/or cost advantage over existing therapies. Requests for coverage through special authorization will not be considered.

Anakinra	<i>(Kineret[®])</i>	100mg/0.67mL injection
Clindamycin / benzoyl peroxide	<i>(Clindoxyl[®])</i>	1% / 5% topical gel
Glimepiride	<i>(Amaryl[®])</i>	1mg, 2mg, 4mg tablets
Tegaserod	<i>(Zelnorm[®])</i>	6mg tablets