

Bulletin #818

October 12, 2011

NBPDP FORMULARY UPDATE

This update to the New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program (NBPDP) Formulary is effective October 17, 2011.

Included in this bulletin:

- **Regular Benefit Additions**
- **Special Authorization Additions**
- **Pegfilgrastim (Neulasta®) Update**

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

REGULAR BENEFIT ADDITIONS

Drug/Form/Route/Strength	Brand Name	DIN	Manufacturer	Plans	\$
Interferon beta-1b					
Liq Inj 0.3mg/vial	Extavia®	02337819	NVR	H	AAC
Telmisartan/hydrochlorothiazide					
Tab Orl 80mg/25mg	Micardis® Plus	02318709	BOE	AEFGVW	AAC
Estradiol					
Tab Vag 10mcg	Vagifem®10	02325462	NNO	AEFGVW	AAC
Fentanyl					
Srd Trd 12mcg	Duragesic® Mat	02334186	JAN	W	AAC

SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION ADDITIONS

Fentanyl
(Duragesic® Mat)
12mcg/h transdermal system

For the management of malignant or chronic non-malignant pain in adult patients:

- who were previously receiving continuous opioid administration (i.e. not opioid naive), or
- who are unable to take oral therapy.

PEGFILGRASTIM (NEULASTA®)

Pegfilgrastim (Neulasta®) has been an eligible NBPDP benefit as part of a pilot project to monitor usage. It was provided through Amgen Canada's Victory Program by a designated pharmacy and this aspect will conclude for NBPDP beneficiaries effective October 17, 2011.

Pegfilgrastim is now listed as a special authorization benefit and eligible claims will be reimbursed when dispensed by any pharmacy in New Brunswick. In conjunction with this change, a program using smartcard technology delivered by STI Technologies Limited (STI) and supported by Amgen Canada is being implemented for the reimbursement of claims.

Claims for pegfilgrastim submitted by pharmacies will be reimbursed up to a maximum allowable price (MAP) set by NBPDP. The difference between the MAP and the actual acquisition cost of pegfilgrastim, up to 7.5% of the manufacturer's list price, will be reimbursed through the STI smartcard. Processing directions are outlined on each smartcard. In the event an NBPDP beneficiary does not have an STI smartcard for pegfilgrastim, please contact STI at 1-877-790-1991.

STI smartcards will be provided by Amgen Canada to physicians to distribute to NBPDP beneficiaries who meet the special authorization (SA) criteria for pegfilgrastim. The SA criteria have not changed and are listed below.

SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION ADDITIONS

Pegfilgrastim
(Neulasta®)
6mg/0.6mL prefilled syringe

Requests will be considered when prescribed by, or on the advice of, a hematologist or medical oncologist in accordance for the following indications:

Chemotherapy Support

- Primary prophylaxis:
 - For use in previously untreated patients receiving a moderate to severely myelosuppressive chemotherapy regimen (i.e. $\geq 40\%$ incidence of febrile neutropenia). Febrile neutropenia is defined as a temperature $\geq 38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $> 38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ three times in a 24 hour period and neutropenia with an absolute neutrophil count (ANC) $< 0.5 \times 10^9/\text{L}$.
- Secondary prophylaxis:
 - For use in patients receiving myelosuppressive chemotherapy who have experienced an episode of febrile neutropenia, neutropenic sepsis or profound neutropenia in a previous cycle of chemotherapy; or
 - For use in patients who have experienced a dose reduction or treatment delay longer than one week, due to neutropenia.
- Dosing for chemotherapy support:
 - The recommended dosage of pegfilgrastim is a single subcutaneous injection of 6 mg, administered once per cycle of chemotherapy. Pegfilgrastim should be administered no sooner than 24 hours after the administration of cytotoxic chemotherapy.

Pegfilgrastim is not indicated and requests will not be considered for the following:

- Myeloid malignancies
- Pediatric patients with cancer receiving myelosuppressive chemotherapy
- Non-malignant neutropenias
- Stem-cell transplantation
- Treatment or prevention of febrile neutropenia in the palliative setting

Note: Filgrastim (Neupogen®) dosing is 5 mcg/kg/day. For patients ≤ 60 kg who are prescribed filgrastim 300mcg for 9 or fewer days, the cost of filgrastim therapy is less than the cost of pegfilgrastim 6mg.
