

Bulletin # 694

October 2, 2007

## **METHADONE REIMBURSEMENT**

This Bulletin outlines policy and procedures related to the provision and reimbursement of methadone for opioid dependence under the New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program (NBPDP) effective October 8, 2007.

This policy is aligned with other provincial policies and guidelines for the provision and distribution of methadone. The key changes are:

- Carry doses will be reimbursed for eligible beneficiaries
- A second pharmacy may be authorized to be reimbursed for methadone for beneficiaries who live in an area where 7 day pharmacy service is not available.

Details on these provisions and other related information is attached.

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

Sincerely,

Debbie LeBlanc  
New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program

## **New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program (NBPDP) Methadone Reimbursement Policy**

### **Eligibility**

To receive methadone for opioid dependence as a benefit under the NBPDP the beneficiary must:

- Have been assessed and prescribed methadone maintenance treatment by a New Brunswick physician in accordance with the *Methadone Maintenance Treatment Policies and Procedures for New Brunswick Addiction Services*. ([http://www.gnb.ca/0051/0378/pdf/Methadone\\_Policies-e.pdf](http://www.gnb.ca/0051/0378/pdf/Methadone_Policies-e.pdf))
- Be 16 years of age or older.
- Be receiving comprehensive treatment for opioid addiction in accordance with *Methadone Maintenance Treatment Policies and Procedures for New Brunswick Addiction Services*.
- Have completed and submitted a Consent for Restricted Prescription Services form identifying the beneficiary's choice of prescriber(s) and pharmacy(ies).
- Have a written Special Authorization request for methadone, from a New Brunswick physician authorized to prescribe methadone (i.e. has received an exemption under Section 56 of the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* from Health Canada), submitted and approved.

### **Effective Date**

Methadone approvals are effective from the date of receipt of the written Special Authorization request from the physician.

### **Copay**

Copay charges are waived for NBPDP beneficiaries who have a Special Authorization approval to receive methadone for opioid dependence.

### **Carry Doses**

The policy allows for the reimbursement by NBPDP of carry doses of methadone in the treatment of opioid dependence for NBPDP beneficiaries who meet the Methadone Maintenance Treatment Clinic criteria for carries.

- Carry doses are daily doses of methadone dispensed by the pharmacy in appropriate prefilled containers for consumption by the beneficiary at a later date.
- Carry doses must be dispensed in a locked container which is to be provided by the client in accordance with Methadone Maintenance Treatment Clinic Policies.
- NBPDP will reimburse up to six carry doses in any 7 day period.

## Second Pharmacy

Methadone patients, who are NBPDP beneficiaries, will ideally continue to be restricted to one pharmacy providing methadone as outlined in the *Methadone Distribution Guidelines for a Methadone Maintenance Program* of the New Brunswick Pharmaceutical Society.

- When this primary pharmacy is located in an area where 7 day service is not available and where the client does not meet the established Methadone Maintenance Treatment criteria for carry doses, a second pharmacy may be authorized to be reimbursed for methadone on days when the primary pharmacy is closed.
- In order to qualify for approval of a second pharmacy the beneficiary's primary residence must lie outside the municipal boundary of any community having a 7 day methadone provider.
- A 7 day methadone provider is defined as any licensed pharmacy open for business 365 days per year agreeing to dispense methadone for opioid dependence on a regular daily basis.
- Prior to involving a second pharmacy, it will be the responsibility of the beneficiary to ascertain the willingness of both pharmacies to participate and to ensure that their methadone provider/clinic is aware of the need to provide methadone prescriptions to both pharmacies.
- The beneficiary's Family and Community Services Case Manager will be responsible for completing/updating and submitting the Consent for Restricted Prescription Services form.

## Pharmacy Claims

In order to ensure accurate adjudication and consistent data quality, please submit methadone claims using the following criteria:

- The unit of measure (quantity) for billing compounded methadone oral solution claims is milligrams. For example, a 70mg dose of methadone should be billed as a quantity of 70.
- The actual acquisition cost (AAC) for the compounded methadone oral solution dispensed.
- The NBPDP PINs for compounded methadone oral solution are:
  - Opioid dependence 00999734
  - Chronic pain regularly scheduled doses 00999801
  - Chronic pain breakthrough doses 00999802
- Electronic billing is to be completed by the pharmacy on a daily basis for the NBPDP beneficiary receiving witnessed and carry doses of methadone. One claim is permitted per day.
- Back dating and resubmission of electronic claims is permitted within 90 days.