

Bulletin #748

March 25, 2009

Quantitative Limits Review Policy and Procedure Update

A review of the NBPDP Quantitative Limits (QL) policy was recently completed. The objective of the QL initiative has been updated to align with initiatives identified in the Provincial Health Plan. The revised objective is as follows:

- To support the appropriate utilization of drugs which have the potential for dependence, abuse, misuse and/or diversion.

In light of this revised objective, quantitative limits will only apply for products classified as narcotics, controlled drugs, and benzodiazepines and other targeted substances. Quantitative limit maximums have been changed on several agents within the benzodiazepines and other targeted substances group to reflect indications beyond that for insomnia.

The QLs apply to beneficiaries of the following plans:

- Plan A: Seniors;
- Plan F + 18: Social Development clients above the age of 18;
- Plan E + 18: Social Development clients in licensed residential facilities above the age of 18;
- Plan V: Nursing Home Residents

Information for physicians and pharmacists, procedures for adjusting QLs, along with the complete list of drugs and their corresponding QL in milligrams is included in this bulletin.

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

Yours truly,



Debbie LeBlanc
New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program

Information for Pharmacists:

- When beneficiaries have been dispensed 75% or more of the maximum amount of a particular drug; pharmacies will be notified through the Point-of-Sale system.
- Pharmacists should advise the beneficiary that they have reached 75% or more of their limit; and, that the NBPDP will not pay for drugs prescribed over 100% of that limit (unless the limit is increased or removed).
- Once the beneficiary has exceeded their maximum amount for a drug, any claims above that amount may be rejected.
- If only a portion of the claim exceeds the limits, for the portion that does not exceed the limit, the ingredient cost and appropriate mark-up and dispensing fee of that portion will be paid. The remainder of the claim will be rejected.

Information for Physicians:

- Physicians requesting QL overrides for patients have 3 options:
 - Through the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system from 8:00am to 12:00am 7 days per week (requires an NBPDP prescriber identification number and QL password)
 - By speaking to a customer service representative Monday to Friday, from 8:00am to 5:00pm, excluding statutory holidays
 - By faxing a written letter with specific instructions
- Physicians who do not have an NBPDP prescriber identification number and Quantity Limit password (e.g. physicians practicing outside NB), can change or override quantity limits for their patients by calling a customer service representative (1-506-867-4515) or by faxing a written letter with the specific instructions (1-506-867-4872).
- New physicians to New Brunswick, who have registered with NB Medicare can request a NBPDP prescriber identification number and QL password by calling a customer service representative (1-800-332-3691).
- Physicians can request the removal of a cancer/palliative care patient from the quantitative limits program for an indefinite period of time by calling a customer service representative (1-800-332-3691) and identifying the patient as such.

Procedures for Adjusting Quantitative Limits via Interactive Voice Response (IVR):

Physicians should phone the toll-free physician inquiry line for the NBPDP (1-800-561-5255). The call will be responded to by an IVR operator. At this point, you will be requested to provide the following information:

1. Your NBPDP physician number
2. Your NBPDP password

Your physician number and password will be validated before continuing. If you wish to speak to a Customer Service Representative (CSR) at any time, rather than continuing your call through the IVR, please press the “*” on your telephone keypad. You will be asked by the CSR to provide your physician number and password again since this information is not available to the CSR once it has been entered into the IVR.

It is extremely important that you keep your password confidential and that you do not misplace your password. If you cannot provide the two identification numbers, or do not pass the security check, the system/operator will not continue with the next steps. If the numbers pass the security check, the following information will be requested:

- Is the patient a Senior or Social Development cardholder?
- What is the patient’s NBPDP identification number?
- What is the drug grouping of the medication?
- What quantity do you want the override changed to?
- What is the time period you want the new quantity limit to be effective? (e.g., one month, until the end of the current limit period)

When setting a revised quantity limit, please specify the TOTAL amount of the new limit (e.g. established limit + increase requested), as opposed to simply indicating the increase requested. This is to ensure that the limit is set at the amount intended by the physician.

The CSR or the IVR will record the information in the computer and the limit will be adjusted immediately. This means that if the patient goes to the pharmacy immediately after you have adjusted the quantity limit, the claim will be processed under the new limit criteria.

Please note that only physicians are permitted to override quantity limits. Overrides will not be accepted from pharmacists or beneficiaries.

NBPDP Quantitative Limits Listing

| Generic Name | Brand Name(s) | Dosage Form(s) | Group Number | 12 Month Quantitative Limit* (milligrams) |
|--|---|-----------------|--------------|---|
| <u>Single Agent Products</u> | | | | |
| Alprazolam | Xanax | Tab | 440 | 540 |
| Bromazepam | Lectopam | Tab | 441 | 10800 |
| Chlordiazepoxide HCL | Librium | Cap | 442 | 14400 |
| Clorazepate dipotassium | Tranxene | Cap | 443 | 8100 |
| Codeine phosphate | Codeine | Tab/Syr | 384 | 3360 |
| Diazepam | Valium, Vivol | Tab | 444 | 14400 |
| Flurazepam HCL | Dalmane, Somnol | Tab/Cap | 445 | 1800 |
| Hydromorphone HCL | Dilaudid, Hydromorph Contin | Tab/Liq/Sup | 385 | 480 |
| Diphenoxylate HCL | Lomotil | Tab | 597 | 400 |
| Lorazepam | Ativan | Tab/Slt | 447 | 2160 |
| Methylphenidate HCL | Ritalin, Ritalin SR | Tab | 435 | 18200 |
| Morphine HCL | M.O.S, M.O.S. SR | Tab/Syr | 388 | 5040 |
| Morphine sulfate | MS Contin, MS IR, Statex | Tab/Srt/Syr/Dps | 389 | 5040 |
| Nitrazepam | Mogadon, Nitrazadon | Tab | 448 | 600 |
| Oxazepam | Serax | Tab | 449 | 43200 |
| Temazepam | Restoril | Cap | 450 | 1800 |
| Triazolam | Halcion | Tab | 451 | 15 |
| Zopiclone | Imovane, Rhovane | Tab | 457 | 2700 |
| <u>Combination Products</u> | | | | |
| Acetaminophen / Caffeine / Codeine | Atasol-15 & 30, Exdol 30, Tylenol #2 & #3 | Tab | 582 | 72000 ^a |
| Acetaminophen / Codeine | Tylenol #4 | Tab | 583 | 72000 ^a |
| ASA / Caffeine / Codeine | 292 | Tab | 579 | 30000 ^b |
| Chlordiazepoxide HCL / Clidinium bromide | Librax | Cap | 555 | 14400 ^c |
| Meprobamate / ASA / Caffeine / Codeine | 282 MEP | Tab | 586 | 24000 ^d |
| Oxycodone / Acetaminophen | Endocet, Percocet, Percocet Demi | Tab | 588 | 39000 ^a |
| Oxycodone / ASA | Endodan, Percodan | Tab | 589 | 39000 ^b |
| Phenobarbital / Belladonna / Ergotamine | Bellergal Spacetabs | Srt | 557 | 8560 ^e |

* 12 Month Quantitative Limit Period (April 1 – March 31)

^a acetaminophen; ^b ASA; ^c chlordiazepoxide; ^d meprobamate; ^e phenobarbital

Cap = capsule; Dps = Drops; Liq = liquid; Slt = sublingual tablet; Srt = sustained release tablet; Sup = suppository; Syr = syrup; Tab = tablet

Note: Quantitative Limits are not a substitution for appropriate prescribing and patient monitoring