

Bulletin #732

October 31, 2008

Payment of Claims for NBPDP Benefits Prescribed by NB Pharmacists

It is the intent of the New Brunswick Prescription Drug Program (NBPDP) to accommodate recent changes to the NB Pharmacy Act and Regulations enabling pharmacist prescribing. However, an amendment to the Regulations of the *Prescription Drug Payment Act* adding pharmacist to the definition of prescriber is required to enable payment of claims for NBPDP benefits prescribed by a licensed pharmacist in New Brunswick.

Another bulletin will be forthcoming once this amendment has been signed by the Lieutenant-Governor. At that time NBPDP will reimburse claims prescribed by pharmacists (as detailed below) subject to the drug being a benefit listed on the NBPDP Formulary.

NBPDP Recognition of Pharmacist Prescribing

NBPDP will recognize all prescribing authorities extended under Section 19.01 of the Regulations to the *Pharmacy Act*.

These include:

- Adapting a prescription
- Altering dose, formulation, regimen
- Renewing a Rx for continuity of care
- Continuing therapy without a prescription for a previously diagnosed condition
- Therapeutic substitution
- Prescribing non-prescription drugs, treatments and devices
- Prescribing in an emergency
- Collaborative practice prescribing

Procedure for Submitting Claims Once the *Prescription Drug Payment Act* Regulation Has Been Approved

For the purpose of claims payment all claims submitted to NBPDP which have been prescribed by a New Brunswick Pharmacist must contain the license number of the prescribing pharmacist as issued by the New Brunswick Pharmaceutical Society preceded by a prefix of **8000**. Example: NB Pharmacist license number 2325 should be entered as 80002325 in the "Prescriber ID" field of your pharmacy vendor software.

It is also recommended to insert the two digit Prescriber ID Reference number in the assigned field as this will soon become mandatory. In New Brunswick, the prescriber ID reference numbers are:

College of Physicians and Surgeons of NB	(41)
NB Dental Society	(45)
NB Pharmaceutical Society	(46)
NB Association of Optometrists	(47)
Nurses Association of NB	(48)

Information on Other Prescribing Related Activities

Presently, the NBPDP is exploring options to enable the submission of Special Authorization requests by prescribing pharmacists. Additional information on this matter will be forthcoming. The Quantitative Limit policy is undergoing a review. Updates to this policy will be communicated following the conclusion of this review.

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