Bulletin #1061

September 16, 2021

NB Drug Plans Formulary Update

This update to the New Brunswick Drug Plans Formulary is effective September 16, 2021.

Included in this bulletin:

- Special Authorization Benefit Additions
- Changes to Special Authorization Benefits
- Biosimilars Initiative Reminder

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

Special Authorization Benefits Additions

Generic name (Brand name)	Strength	DIN	MFR	Plans	Cost Base
Gilteritinib (Xospata)	40 mg tablet	02495058	ASL	(SA)	MLP

As monotherapy for the treatment of adult patients with relapsed or refractory FMS-like tyrosine kinase 3 (FLT3)-mutated acute myeloid leukemia who meet all of the following criteria:

- Confirmed positive for FLT3 mutation at the time of relapse or determination of refractory disease
- Presence of FLT3-ITD, FLT3-TKD/D835 or FLT3-TKD/I836 mutation

Renewal Criteria:

- Written confirmation that the patient is responding to treatment.

Clinical Notes:

1. Patients must have a good performance status.
2. Treatment should continue as long as clinical benefit is observed or until unacceptable toxicity occurs.

Claim Notes:

- Initial approval period: 6 months.
- Renewal approval period: 6 months.
- Claims that exceed the maximum claim amount of $9,999.99 must be divided and submitted as separate transactions as outlined here.

Changes to Existing Special Authorization Benefits

Generic name (Brand name)	Strength	DIN	MFR	Plans	Cost Base
New Dosage Form Dupilumab (Dupixent)	300 mg /2 mL prefilled pen	02510049	SAV	(SA)	MLP

For the treatment of moderate to severe atopic dermatitis in patients 12 years of age and older who meet all of the following criteria:

- Refractory or have contraindications to an adequate trial of topical prescription therapies
- Refractory, intolerant or have contraindications to an adequate trial of phototherapy (where available), methotrexate, and cyclosporine
- Baseline Physician Global Assessment score of 3 or greater and Eczema Area and Severity Score of 7.1 or greater

Renewal criteria:

- Requests for renewal must provide proof of beneficial clinical effect defined as a 75% or greater improvement from baseline in the Eczema Area and Severity Index (EASI-75) score six months after treatment initiation.

- Proof of maintenance of EASI-75 response from baseline must be provided for subsequent authorizations.

Clinical Note:

- Not to be used in combination with phototherapy or immunosuppressant drugs (e.g., methotrexate, cyclosporine).

Claim Notes:

- Must be prescribed by a dermatologist.
- Approvals will be for a maximum of 600 mg at week 0, then 300 mg every two weeks thereafter.
- Initial approval period: 6 months.
- Renewal approval period: 1 year.

Revised Criteria

Duloxetine (Cymbalta and generics)	30 mg capsule 60 mg capsule	See NB Drug Plans Formulary or MAP List for Products	(SA)	MAP

Chronic Pain

For the treatment of patients with chronic pain.

Claim Note:

- The maximum dose reimbursed is 60 mg daily.

Biosimilars Initiative Reminder

The Biosimilars Initiative, announced in the NB Drug Plans Formulary Update - Bulletin #1050, involves switching patients who use certain originator biologics to a biosimilar brand to maintain their coverage under the New Brunswick Drug Plans.

As a reminder, **coverage of the originator biologics listed in the table below will end on November 30, 2021** or on the last day of the current special authorization approval, whichever is sooner.

Drug	Originator (Switch from)	Biosimilar (Switch to)
Adalimumab	Humira	Idacio Amgevita Hadlima Hyrimoz Hulio
Etanercept	Enbrel	Brenzys Erelzi
Infliximab	Remicade	Inflectra Renflexis Avsola
Insulin glargine	Lantus	Basaglar
Insulin lispro	Humalog	Admelog
Rituximab	Rituxan	Ruxience Truxima Riximyo
Glatiramer	Copaxone	Glatect

More information and resources, including the Biosimilars Initiative Guide for Prescribers and Health Professionals and Guide for Patients, are available online at www.gnb.ca/biosimilars.