



Notification of Administrative Changes

The Government of the Northwest Territories' supplementary health benefit programs *Extended Health Benefits Policy - Specified Disease Conditions*, *Extended Health Benefits Policy – Seniors* and *Métis Health Benefits Policy* specific to Drug Benefits (prescription drugs) administration will be changed effective August 1, 2021.

The changes affect two aspects of the prescription drug administration, including:

Lowest Cost Equivalent (LCE) Drug

The LCE drug is often a generic drug. Generic drugs are used across all Canadian jurisdictions as a best price alternative. The GNWT has not explicitly specified that LCE drugs must be used however, as there is increasing costs associated with not specifying coverage of the lowest cost alternative drug, the GNWT is not aligned with other jurisdictions and similar benefit plans available in the NWT.

Long-Term Dispensing

Certain medications required for long-term maintenance therapy should be prescribed and dispensed in up to 100 day supplies. For medication refills requiring short-term dispensing for a shorter duration than 90 to 100 days due to compliance concerns, the Program will only reimburse a total of one dispensing fee per 90 days up to the regional maximum of the Program. The following list of medications, to be reviewed on an annual basis, include:

- Antiarthritic DMARDs
- Anticoagulants
- Anticonvulsants
- Antidiabetic Agents
- Antihypertensive Agents
- Contraceptives
- Digitalis and Digitalis Glycosides, also known as Cardiotonic agents
- Hormone Replacement Therapy
- Thyroid Agents
- Prescription Vitamins
- Medications for Alzheimers Disease
- Antiasthmatics
- Medications for COPD
- Medications for BPH
- Cardiac Drugs – Antiangina Agents
- Cardiac Drugs – Antilipidemic Agents
- Medications for Osteoporosis
- Antiparkinsonian Agents

- Medications for Overactive Bladder
- Antidepressants
- Antiglaucoma Agents
- Antigout Agents

The following are exceptions to the Long-Term Dispensing policy:

- Refills for intermittent treatment of a chronic disorder or refills of a medication which are prescribed to be taken on an "as needed" (PRN)
- Prescriptions for dose changes
- Injectable and suppository dosage forms
- Refills or new prescriptions when prescribed/dispensed in accordance with a court order

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Date