Updated Criteria for Long-Acting Bronchodilators & Combination Inhalation Therapy in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

The Atlantic Common Drug Review (ACDR) has recently completed a review of the evidence for long-acting bronchodilators (tiotropium, long-acting beta₂ agonists) in the treatment of chronic obstructive disease (COPD). Special Authorization criteria are being updated based on evidence published in the past year. These criteria became effective November 1, 2008.

Changes to the Special Authorization criteria are relevant for patients with moderate to very severe COPD, reflecting to the populations studied in recent trials.

With these changes patients with spirometric evidence of moderate to severe airflow obstruction will be eligible for coverage of one long-acting bronchodilator (e.g. tiotropium, salmeterol, or formoterol) without a trial of maximum doses of a short-acting bronchodilator. Also, patients with spirometric evidence of moderate to severe airflow obstruction and with more frequent exacerbations will be eligible for coverage of both tiotropium and a long-acting beta₂ agonist (LABA)/inhaled corticosteroid combination.
CHANGES TO THE NLPDP BENEFIT LISTING

The Newfoundland and Labrador Interchangeable Formulary
New Categories Effective September 26, 2008:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ondansetron 4mg/5ml Oral Solution</th>
<th>Fentanyl Transdermal Patch 12mcg/hour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Valacyclovir 500mg Tablets</td>
<td>Desmopressin 0.1mg Tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modafinil 100mg Tablets</td>
<td>Desmopressin 0.2mg Tablets</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Special Authorization
Coverage criteria can be viewed at http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/nlpdp/

The following special authorization medications have new coverage criteria:
Sprycel for the treatment of Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML)
Spiriva for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
Foradil for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
Serevent for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
Oxeze for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
Advair for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)
Symbicort for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FORMS
Special Authorization request forms are available on the NLPDP website http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/nlpdp/ in the Special Authorization Drugs section. There is a standard form as well as specialized forms for Cholinesterase Inhibitors, Clopidogrel, Sevelamer, Crohn’s Disease medications (anti-TNF agents) and Rheumatoid Arthritis medications. These forms are a good guide as to what information is needed for assessment for coverage and are being regularly updated to reflect NLPDP changes. Older forms should not be used.

We have noticed some older forms are being used that have outdated fax and telephone numbers. This is a concern due to the confidential nature of these requests.

FAX NUMBER for REQUESTING SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION 729-2851
Please pay close attention when dialling the fax number to send in patient information. It has come to the attention of the Pharmaceutical Services Division that another government department with a similar fax number has been receiving a number of faxes concerning NLPDP beneficiaries. This is a serious concern given the personal information contained in these transmissions.

PATIENT MCP NUMBER NEEDED FOR SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION REQUESTS
Please be advised that the MCP number is mandatory when requesting Special Authorization or when making an enquiry on behalf of a patient. For requests that do not have MCP number identification the sender will be contacted and the request will be delayed until MCP number is provided.