



July 10, 2023

Mr. Darren Murphy, Board President
Ms. Tanjit Nagra, CEO
Pharmacists Manitoba
PO Box 55044
Dakota Crossing PO
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2N 0A8

Re: Adjustments to Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Dispensing Fees in Manitoba

Dear Mr. Murphy and Ms. Nagra,

Thank you for your letter of June 15th regarding the request from Pharmacists Manitoba for adjustments to the Non-Insured Health Benefits dispensing fees in Manitoba as well as other reimbursement and coverage related matters.

The NIHB Program appreciates the services that pharmacists in Manitoba provide to our clients. As a national program, efforts are made to ensure that coverage for pharmacy services are consistent across the country for our clients while taking into consideration the variation in scope of practice and provincial health funding arrangements. Various issues identified in your letter have been shared with the appropriate policy divisions, who will assess them as part of ongoing policy work.

The NIHB Program recognizes the importance of reimbursing pharmacy providers in a reasonable manner in the context of the realities within each province/territory, while being consistent in the overall program approach. We are pleased to inform you that NIHB will increase its maximum dispensing fee for prescription drugs in Manitoba to the 2021/22 median Manitoba Pharmacare Program dispensing fee and will implement a one-time 2% additional increase while awaiting the provincial dispensing fee data for 2022/23.

On August 7, 2023, the program will increase the maximum dispensing fee in Manitoba to \$15.22 for prescription drugs. The maximum dispensing fee for over-the-counter medications will increase to \$7.61. Pharmacies continue to be required to submit the lesser of their usual and customary fee or the applicable NIHB dispensing fee.



In accordance with NIHB Program policies – as outlined in the NIHB Guide for Pharmacy Benefits and/or otherwise communicated by NIHB – the increase in the dispensing fee will also affect other fees, including those associated with extemporaneous mixtures and methadone for the treatment of opioid use disorder.

Please share the information regarding the new rates with the members of Pharmacists Manitoba. NIHB will also send a fax to enrolled NIHB pharmacy service providers in advance of the implementation date.

When NIHB has received the 2022/23 median dispensing fee information from Pharmacists Manitoba for the Manitoba Pharmacare Program, the Program will reassess its fees and consider additional dispensing fee adjustments. Going forward, the Program will review its dispensing fees once annually upon receipt of updated supporting information from Pharmacists Manitoba.

We want to express our gratitude for the services provided to our clients.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Menzies
Manager, Fees, Pricing & Negotiations
Non-Insured Health Benefits Program
Indigenous Services Canada