

Non-Insured Benefits  
300 Carlton Street, Winnipeg MB R3B 3M9  
T 204-786-2572 F 204-946-0262  
[www.manitoba.ca](http://www.manitoba.ca)

March 20, 2020

Dear Prescribers, Pharmacy Owners, Managers and Pharmacists,

**Re: Changes to Exception Drug Status (EDS) Expiry Dates**

In light of recent events, surrounding COVID-19 Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) is monitoring the developments and taking steps to protect the health and safety of patients and staff, while maintaining critical services.

Effective immediately, any patient that has an active EDS approval under Manitoba's Pharmacare Program, the Palliative Care Drug Access Program (PA), the Employment and Income Assistance Drug Program (EIA) or Personal Care Home Program (PCH) for drug(s) expiring within the next 3 months will have the coverage automatically extended for a 6-month period. MHSAL will not require a physician or pharmacist to apply for renewal of coverage at this time.

This transition will help to ensure that there is no interruption of benefit coverage for clients who meet the established Part 3 EDS criteria as recommended by an expert committee of health professionals.

• **NOTE: The client will not be sent a letter to confirm their continued EDS approval.**

Please note that the measures we have taken does not apply to patients who are initiating a new treatment and have not yet received approval. The EDS Office will continue to receive EDS requests exclusively by fax. Please fax your EDS requests to 204-942-2030, or toll free number at 1-877-208-3588. The EDS Office triages all requests and prioritizes urgent requests.

Please visit the "Information for Health Professionals" page of our website at <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/pharmacare/healthprofessionals.html> for updates to policies, forms, and procedures regularly. Thank you for your continued support and patience as we continue to review and modify processes and procedures.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the helpdesk at (204) 786-8000 or 1-800-663-7774.

Sincerely,



Patricia Caetano, PhD  
Executive Director, Non-Insured Benefits Branch