



October 2026

## Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program Update

The latest news on NIHB policies and benefit coverage for First Nations and Inuit clients

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### Pharmacy benefit information

#### New pharmacy benefit listings

Refer to the [Drug Benefit List](https://nihb-ssna.express-scripts.ca/en/040212) ([nihb-ssna.express-scripts.ca/en/040212](https://nihb-ssna.express-scripts.ca/en/040212)) to find all eligible products and criteria for coverage

The following medications and products are now covered as open benefits without prior approval:

- **Myfembree (relugolix/estradiol/norethindrone)** for the treatment of heavy menstrual bleeding

The following listings are covered as limited use benefits with prior approval:

- **Avtozma (tocilizumab) IV intravenous** for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in adults, and for the treatment of systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis and polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis for children 2 years of age and older
- **Avtozma (tocilizumab) SubC subcutaneous** for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in adults, and certain types of arthritis in children 2 years of age and older
- **OmvoH (mirikizumab)** for the treatment of Crohn's disease
- **Posaconazole and generics** for the prevention or treatment of patients with severe fungal infections
- **Calquence (acalabrutinib maleate)** for the treatment of patients with mantle cell lymphoma, a type of blood cancer
- **Venclexta (venetoclax)** for the treatment of certain blood cancers
- **Scemblix (asciminib)** for the treatment of patients with newly diagnosed Philadelphia chromosome-positive chronic myeloid leukemia (CML), a type of blood cancer that starts in the bone marrow
- **Itovebi (inavolisib)** for the treatment of adult patients with a certain type of breast cancer



## Discontinuation of Suboxone

- Brand name Suboxone tablets (buprenorphine/naloxone sublingual tablets) will be discontinued by the manufacturer in early 2027. This is not related to any changes in NIHB coverage
- NIHB will continue to cover buprenorphine-based treatments for opioid use disorder, including generic buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, Suboxone sublingual film and Sublocade (extended-release buprenorphine injection). These products do not require prior approval
- Clients who currently use Suboxone tablets should speak with their health care provider to ensure a smooth transition.

## General program information

### Claim statements available through NIHB web accounts

- Clients can now access their NIHB claim statements directly through their NIHB web account
- Claim statements previously available on the ESC Statement website are no longer available on [escstatement.ca](http://escstatement.ca) website as of September 30, 2026
- To view your claim statement, log in to your NIHB web account and select 'Statements' from the left-hand menu. You can select a date range or search for a specific statement using the statement number. Claim statements remain available after each payment cycle
- If you do not have an NIHB web account, you can create one by visiting [Client Benefits](http://nihb-ssna.express-scripts.ca/en) ([nihb-ssna.express-scripts.ca/en](http://nihb-ssna.express-scripts.ca/en)) on the Express Scripts Canada website and clicking 'Create Web Account'
- If you have any questions, please contact NIHB Call Centre at Express Scripts Canada at [1-888-441-4777](tel:1-888-441-4777) for assistance





## NIHB client inquiries

**Email** [nihb-ssna@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:nihb-ssna@sac-isc.gc.ca)

Email for general inquiries only. Do not send client reimbursement requests or appeals by email.

**Alberta** General inquiries: 1-800-232-7301  
Email: [abnihbqa-qrssna@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:abnihbqa-qrssna@sac-isc.gc.ca)  
Medical Transportation: 1-800-514-7106  
Email: [eru-ure@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:eru-ure@sac-isc.gc.ca)

**Atlantic** 1-800-565-3294  
Email: [nihb-atlnihb@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:nihb-atlnihb@sac-isc.gc.ca)

**British Columbia**

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| NIHB clients (Inuit and non-resident First Nations)                   | 1-800-232-7301 |
| First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)<br>(First Nations BC residents) | 1-855-550-5454 |

**Manitoba** 1-877-983-0911

**Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Yukon** 1-888-332-9222

**Ontario** 1-800-640-0642

**Quebec** 1-514-283-1575  
1-877-483-1575

**Saskatchewan** 1-866-885-3933  
Email: [sasknihb\\_inquiries@sac-isc.gc.ca](mailto:sasknihb_inquiries@sac-isc.gc.ca)

**NIHB Drug Exception Centre  
(Pharmacy benefits)** 1-800-580-0950  
1-800-281-5027

**NIHB Dental Predetermination Centre  
(Dental and Orthodontic services)** 1-855-618-6291 (Dental Services)  
1-866-227-0943 (Orthodontic Services)

**NIHB Call Centre at Express Scripts Canada** 1-888-441-4777  
*For assistance with services provided by Express Scripts Canada, including NIHB client web accounts and submission of client reimbursement requests for pharmacy, dental, MS&E, vision care and mental health counselling benefits.*