Appendix D – Special Authorization Criteria

Special Authorization is a process whereby Beneficiaries of the Program may obtain coverage for drug products not offered as regular benefits. The purpose of the Special Authorization process is to ensure optimal, cost-effective and evidence-based drug utilization.

The Special Authorization process is one means the Government of NL has of ensuring patients continue to have access to needed medications while being responsible and accountable for the expenditure of public funds. Drugs listed in this category are available to Beneficiaries who meet certain defined criteria.

Special Authorization criteria is based on recommendations from Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) or Atlantic Common Drug Review (ACDR) expert review processes. The criteria to access special authorization drugs is posted on the Program's website at: http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/prescription/special_auth_drug_products.pdf

As part of the Special Authorization process, a health professional has the option of appealing a decision made by NLPDP. Under the Exceptional Review Process, the medical practitioner designated by the Minister will consider requests for drugs that (i) have a Notice of Compliance (NOC) from Health Canada; (ii) are considered under NLPDP via the special authorization process; and (iii) do not meet established special authorization criteria. An exceptional review would require the health professional to apply in writing providing detailed documentation including diagnosis, supporting clinical evidence, clinical alternatives and funding alternatives. More information regarding the NLPDP Exceptional Review Process can be found at: Exceptional Review Process - Health and Community Services