

Chapter 8: Health Benefits

(vii) Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program

Intent:	To provide an overview of the prescription drug program for Income Support recipients, delivered by the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP).
Act: (if applicable)	N/A
Regulations:	N/A
Overview: (if applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>The Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program</u> (NLPDP) provides financial assistance in the purchase of eligible prescription medications for those who reside in the province. There are four main plans under the program:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Foundation Plan (covers Income Support recipients, among others)▪ The 65Plus Plan (seniors plan)▪ The Access Plan (low income plan)▪ The Assurance Plan (high cost drugs in relation to income) <p>For more information, please see the <u>Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program</u>, on the Department of Health and Community Services website.</p>

The Foundation Plan

- The Foundation Plan provides 100 per cent coverage of eligible prescription drugs for those who need the greatest support. This includes persons and families in receipt of Income Support benefits, some individuals receiving services through NL Health Services (e.g. individuals in supervised care) and children in care with the Department. No application is necessary. A drug card is automatically issued when NLPDP is notified that an individual is in receipt of these services.
- Information on recipients within the Income Support program will be forwarded electronically by CAPS based on the information inputted by staff. If requested by recipients, NLPDP will print a wallet size drug card for each individual

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that is eligible on the file. Recipients that do not request a plastic drug card from NLPDP can use their MCP number or ambulance/dental card at the pharmacy for proof of drug coverage.

- The key identifier by NLPDP is the MCP number. If the recipient's MCP number is entered into CAPS, they can present their MCP number at a pharmacy to verify eligibility. Where recipients do not have a valid MCP number entered in CAPS, they will receive a paper ambulance/dental card from Income Support that they will need to present at the pharmacy. This card will need to be used until the recipient receives their MCP number and it is entered into CAPS, then the MCP number can be presented at the pharmacy.
- Applicants who contact the Department requesting drug coverage only should be referred to NLPDP.

Policy:

- Recipients of basic Income Support benefits receive 100 per cent coverage of eligible prescription drugs through NLPDP. If recipients/dependents have private drug coverage, this should be entered in CAPS and NLPDP will supplement the private coverage.
- In certain circumstances, NLPDP may restrict recipients to a specific pharmacy. Any recipients who identify issues relating to restrictions should be referred to NLPDP.
- To assist recipients in the transition from Income Support benefits to employment, the Department provides a twelve month extended drug card. Extended drug coverage begins after the 60 day earnings overlap ends and not the date that the recipient started work.
 - Where these individuals return to the caseload before the covering period of their twelve month extended drug card ends, their extended drug card should be cancelled and they should be provided with a regular Foundation Plan Card, issued monthly.
- When the 'include drug card' button on screen AM 5000 is selected, the cheque stub issued will include the

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	<p>ambulance/dental card, unless the recipient has an active extended drug card or private health care coverage that includes these benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NLPDP coverage can be provided to an Income Support recipient while out of province for the period that they are in hospital or an outpatient, if they are required to stay in the area for hospital follow-up. Medications are dispensed through the hospital pharmacy upon arrangements made by NLPDP. If an escort is accompanying the patient, it is assumed that they would bring an adequate supply of medications that they are currently taking. Recipients who are out of the province for any other reason will not be eligible for drug coverage in that province.• There is no provision for the Department to provide money to recipients for medications that are not covered under the formulary identified by NLPDP.• Recipients who have their regular Income Support benefits suspended due to homelessness or who leave the shelter system without alternate housing (i.e. whereabouts unknown), can be provided with an additional 2 months of regular drug coverage. The additional coverage should be from the day after the current coverage ends until the end of the second calendar month (e.g. a drug card was previously approved for October 1-31 and a recipient reports to be homeless on October 18; the additional drug card should be issued for the period November 1- December 31). Extensions may be approved by a Regional Manager in exceptional circumstances.
Procedure:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CSOs should tick the 'include drug card' box on screen AM 5000 for all cases where a drug card would normally be issued. This information is forwarded electronically to NLPDP every 2 hours for updating in their system. If the 'include drug card' box is not ticked with each reassessment/non-recurring request, the recipient's drug coverage through NLPDP will be terminated.• CSOs should add a private health care record in CAPS for all applicants/recipients/dependents who have private health

care coverage. This information will be forwarded to NLPDP electronically.

- When a recipient's file is suspended due to homelessness or leaving the shelter system without alternate housing (i.e. whereabouts unknown), the CSO should issue an additional two months regular drug coverage under supplementary benefits on screen AM 6000. If the individual starts receiving regular Income Support benefits prior to the end of the additional drug coverage period, the CSO should ensure that the "include drug card" box is ticked on screen AM 5000, so that the regular drug card will continue to be issued each month. The "start date" on screen AM 5210 should be changed to the day after the additional drug coverage period ends. The CAPS note should clearly identify the date entered to avoid system problems if additional work is completed on the file prior to the date entered on screen AM 5210.
- When a supplementary drug card is required, it can be issued on screen AM 6000. If the drug card is being issued for a new person on the case, the CSO can select that person only, as opposed to having duplicate records for other family members.
- When CSOs tick the 'include drug card' button on screen AM 5000, the cheque stub issued will include the ambulance/dental card, unless there is a private health care record which indicates these benefits are already provided under that plan. If a recipient is eligible and requires a replacement card, CSOs can select the 'reprint ambulance/dental card' button on screen AM 4300 and the reprinted card will automatically be mailed by Client Payment Services staff.
- In cases where there is no regular drug card, an emergency drug card can be issued on screen AM 6000. If the applicant/recipient needs an immediate prescription filled and is unable to wait the 2 hour upload time frame, staff can complete an emergency drug card request form and fax it to 1-888-272-2444 (NLPDP office in Stephenville). NLPDP staff will enter the information within 30 minutes of an emergency request being received. This will allow applicants/recipients to proceed to a pharmacy using their MCP number (or in the

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	<p>interim, a temporary ID) as an identifier. The pharmacy can also contact the NLPDP office for confirmation of coverage, if required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicants/recipients with newborns or those who have moved from other provinces will need to apply for their MCP number as quickly as possible, as that is the main identifier for NLPDP. In the interim, these applicants/recipients can show their ambulance/dental card at the pharmacy for proof of coverage.• The applicant's/recipient's MCP number must be entered into CAPS to transfer cases to recurring pay.
Authority Level:	<p>Client Services Officer</p> <p>Regional Manager – requests for drug coverage beyond two months, for individuals who are homeless.</p>
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