



The Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program

Prior Approval Process Information for Audiology Providers

Questions and Answers

What Changes were made to the audiology prior approval process?

The NIHB Program has removed the NIHB Confirmation Form from its audiology prior approval process. Hearing aid providers must now only fax the manufacturers invoice with a copy of the PA Form (referencing their PA number) to the respective Health Canada Regional Office in order to finalize the approval process. The NIHB Hearing Aid and Hearing Aid Repair Prior Approval Form will be updated to reflect this change.

Please note: Prior approval will still be required for all audiology benefits.

Why was the prior approval process amended?

This change will introduce a standardize and facilitate the prior approval process across the regions. The Program will reduce the number of steps required for prior approvals.

When will this change become effective?

This change will become effective June 1, 2013.

Where can I find the NIHB Hearing Aid and Hearing Aid Repair Prior Approval Form?

The NIHB Hearing Aid and Hearing Aid Repair Prior Approval Form can be found on the Express Scripts Canada website: <http://www.provider.esicanada.ca/mse.html> .

Where can I find information on the audiology prior approval process and the NIHB Hearing Aid benefit?

The Medical Supplies and Equipment Benefit List : <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/nihb-ssna/provide-fournir/med-equip/criter/index-eng.php> contains the products and services covered as eligible benefits by the NIHB Program, along with information pertaining to benefit codes, requirements for prior approval, and applicable frequency limitations.

The Medical Supplies and Equipment Provider Guide : <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fniah-spnia/pubs/nihb-ssna/medequip/2009-prov-four-guide/index-eng.php> provides information on the NIHB Program and policies relevant to medical supplies and equipment (MS&E) providers. It explains the extent and limitations of the NIHB Program's MS&E benefits by describing the important elements of each associated policy.

Where can I obtain more information about the NIHB Program?

For more information regarding the NIHB Program, visit the NIHB Program website: www.healthcanada.gc.ca/nihb or contact the Health Canada regional office.