

# Pharmacy – PharmaCare Plan W

<http://www.fnha.ca/benefits/pharmacy>

The FNHA Health Benefits program provides [eligible](#) clients:

- Specified drugs, including certain prescription drugs
- Over-the-counter (OTC) drugs
- Proprietary medicines
- Compounds - such as eye drops and skin creams; these mixtures prepared by the pharmacist

## What is covered?

The majority of FNHA pharmacy benefits are administered through the BC PharmaCare program. Eligible FNHA clients will receive coverage for their prescription medications through **PharmaCare Plan W**. All drugs approved for coverage by PharmaCare Plan W are available on their formulary search, which can be found <https://pharmacareformularysearch.gov.bc.ca/>.

Drugs that are not on the PharmaCare Plan W formulary may be approved for coverage as a Special Authority, when exceptional need is demonstrated. Special Authority requests must be initiated by a doctor or nurse practitioner. The following drug products are **exclusions** under the program:

- Household products (e.g. soap and shampoos)
- Anti-obesity drugs
- Cosmetics
- Alternative therapies (e.g. glucosamine and evening primrose oil)
- Megavitamins
- Drugs with investigational/ experimental status
- Vaccinations for travel
- Hair-growth stimulants
- Fertility agents and impotence drugs
- Select over-the-counter products
- Cough preparations containing codeine

## **Accessing your Pharmacy Benefits**

### **How do I access my pharmacy benefits? And how does payment work?**

1. As an eligible FNHA client, you visit a physician/nurse practitioner
2. Your physician/nurse practitioner writes a prescription for you.
3. You take your prescription to the pharmacy.
4. Your pharmacist will enter your benefit information into their point-of-sale-system, *PharmaNet*.
5. Prescriptions will adjudicate first through PharmaCare Plan W. Any items not covered by PharmaCare can also be adjudicated through a third party provider and then NIHB, which will continue to cover a small number of items for First Nations in BC.
6. If you are prescribed a specific medication not on the Plan W formulary, your prescriber (physician or nurse practitioner) can apply for *Special Authority* for that medication.
7. PharmaCare reviews the request and determines eligibility based on program guidelines.
8. Once a Special Authority is approved, the information is entered into PharmaNet and your prescription can be filled.

**An appeals procedure for Pharmacy is being finalized. Information about the appeals procedure will be posted on our website once it is available.**

### **Do you have questions?**

#### **Contact us at:**

[HealthBenefits@fnha.ca](mailto:HealthBenefits@fnha.ca)

or call

1.855.550.5454

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## Quick Links

Drug Benefits for FNHA Clients is a list of resources for pharmacy providers.

[Quick Links: Drug Benefits for FNHA Clients \(PDF 186 KB\)](#)

FNHA Website	PharmaCare Transition Information: <a href="http://www.fnha.ca/benefits/pharmacare-transition">http://www.fnha.ca/benefits/pharmacare-transition</a>	Browse FNHA's website for important information and documents.
BCPhA eTraining Portal	<a href="https://www.bcpharmacy.ca/education/etraining">https://www.bcpharmacy.ca/education/etraining</a>	Login with BCPhA email and password to access public and member-only courses.
Transitional Coverage Request Form	<a href="http://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Transitional-Coverage-Request-Form.pdf">http://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Transitional-Coverage-Request-Form.pdf</a>	This manual claim process allows payment of the claim and extra time to resolve a coverage issue. Please contact FNHA if you have a case where you are uncertain of its appropriate use.
FNHA-PharmaCare Coverage Continuity Guide	Pharmacist's Guide for RDP, LCD and Non Benefits: <a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare/pharm_guide_covg_cont.pdf">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare/pharm_guide_covg_cont.pdf</a>	PharmaCare Coverage – Pharmacist's guide for RDP, LCA and Non-Benefits for FNHA clients.



First Nations Health Benefits (Plan W) Over the Counter Benefits

List of OTC items listed as benefits specific to Plan W:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare/planw-otc-meds.pdf>

This list of OTC items is specific for Plan W and is in addition to OTC items that are already PharmaCare benefits.

Note: some of these items may not yet appear on the PharmaCare Formulary Search tool.

Pharmacist-Initiated OTC Treatments

List of Conditions Covered:

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare/pharm\\_initiated\\_otc.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare/pharm_initiated_otc.pdf)

Treatments initiated by the pharmacist for select minor ailments can be reimbursed by Plan W. Claims should be entered into PharmaNet the same way as other prescriptions.

Processing Claims Information:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare/newsletters/news17-010.pdf>

Plan W Non-drug OTC Benefits

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/practitioner-professional-resources/pharmacare/pharmacies/product-identification-numbers/plan-w-non-drug-otc-benefits>

This document contains PINs for general supplies; diabetic supplies; inhaler spacers; and IUDs.

NIHB Residual List for FNHA Clients

Residual List:

<http://www.fnha.ca/Documents/NIHB-Formulary-List-for-FNHA-Clients-Enrolled-in-Plan-W-Providers.PDF>

To ensure continuity of coverage, NIHB covers select prescription and non-prescription items not listed in Pharmacare Plan W.

Algorithm for Coverage:

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare/pharm\\_guide\\_covg\\_cont.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/health-drug-coverage/pharmacare/pharm_guide_covg_cont.pdf)

NIHB Parallel Plan for FNHA clients not yet enrolled in Plan W

<http://www.fnha.ca/Documents/NIHB-Formulary-List-for-FNHA-Clients-Not-Enrolled-in-Plan-W.PDF>

NIHB's Parallel Plan W for FNHA clients provides coverage for FNHA clients not yet enrolled in Plan W.

Clients not yet enrolled in Plan W should be encouraged to call FNHA.

NIHB's Guide for Pharmacy Benefits:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/services/first-nations-inuit-health/reports-publications/non-insured-health-benefits/guide-pharmacy-benefits-non-insured-benefits.html>

Non-Insured Health Benefits Program Information

NIHB Pharmacist Initiated Therapy:

[https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/services/first-nations-inuit-health/reports-publications/non-insured-health-benefits/guide-pharmacy-benefits-non-insured-benefits.html#chp3\\_13](https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/services/first-nations-inuit-health/reports-publications/non-insured-health-benefits/guide-pharmacy-benefits-non-insured-benefits.html#chp3_13)

These links provide information on the Indigenous Services Canada's rules and policies for claim submitted to and paid by NIHB.

ESC-NIHB Claims Submission Kit

<http://provider.express-scripts.ca/pharmacy/claims-submission-kit>

## **Plan W in PharmaCare Newsletters:**

[October 4, 2018](#)

- Submitting OTC Claims for Plan W Beneficiaries in Plan B Facilities
- Plan W covers ostomy supplies for FNHA clients
- Full Payment Policy & Plan W

[August 21, 2018](#)

- Basaglar covered as preferred insulin glargine brand

[March 1, 2018](#)

- Expiring Transitional SA's
- Exceptional & Limited Coverage Drugs
- Non-Drug OTC Benefits
- NIHB Residual Items

[January 26, 2018](#)

- Plan W Full Payment Policy
- Transitional SA Expiration Dates

[November 14, 2017](#)

- Plan W compounds
- OTC reimbursements
- Claims issues for unregistered clients

[October 17, 2017](#)

- Plan W Formulary
- OTC Drug/Non-Drug Benefits
- Special Authorities
- Out-of-Province Claims

[September 26, 2017](#)

- PharmaCare Transition
- OTC Drug Benefits
- Devices, MS&E, BGTS

- Out-of-Province Claims
- Provincial Treatment Agencies
- Frequency of Dispensing

September 12, 2017

- MS&E Coverage
- Continuity of Coverage

August 8, 2017

- Transition to PharmaCare (Eligibility, Coverage, Payment Policy)