

WCB FORMULARY & SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION PROCESS

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR PHARMACIES

1. WCB formularies are linked to nature of illness/injury. This means that what is covered for one injured worker may not be covered for another.
2. There is a comprehensive list of drugs requiring special authorization, and their criteria for coverage, called ***Special Authorization Drugs & Coverage Criteria***. This document is published and maintained at www.wcb.ns.ca/formulary.
3. All Special Authorization requests must be completed and submitted **by the prescriber to Medavie Blue Cross (MBC) for evaluation**. The appropriate forms must be utilized. The requests are compared to criteria for coverage developed based on best practice, product monographs and various other provincial and national sources of drug indication, market information and coverage recommendations.
4. New MBC system adjudication messages associated with these changes will be implemented, including warning messages and transaction rejection messages.
 - If a “Warning” message appears regarding time or quantity limits, please advise the patient to return to his/her prescriber to initiate Special Authorization IF the prescription is anticipated to continue.
 - If a “Rejection” message appears indicating that the drug is not a benefit OR patient has exceeded quantity limits:
 - You should contact the prescriber to seek an alternative (covered) medication, or advise that a Special Authorization request must be submitted to MBC for evaluation.
 - If a delay in receiving the prescribed medication risks significant or life threatening harm to the patient, contact the prescriber OR Medavie Blue Cross at **1-855-496-5810** to explore immediate options.
 - Please be advised that a Special Authorization **must** be approved and in place before the WCB can reimburse an injured worker for prescription medications paid out-of-pocket. If a Special Authorization request is **not** approved, the injured worker will not be reimbursed. This includes any cost differential between brand name and generic drugs.
5. If you have questions about WCB coverage for individual medications including drugs, products and/or compounds, call Medavie Blue Cross at **1-855-496-5810**. If your question involves a specific injured worker, please ensure you have the worker’s WCB claim number at hand.